

## U.S. seeks to push Cyprus talks

LARNACA (AP) — U.S. envoy David Lamb flew in Tuesday in a bid to break a deadlock in talks for the reunification of this war-divided island. Mr. Lamb, the State Department's coordinator for Cyprus, is on his second visit to the island this month. "This is not a routine visit," he told reporters on arrival. "I came to see if there is anything the United States can do." Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash has rejected a package of confidence-building measures proposed by the United Nations as a first step towards ending the island's 20-year-old division. Commenting on the impasse, Mr. Lamb said: "In negotiations like this it is natural to have ups and downs and it may be just one effort last week by Joe Clark, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative for Cyprus, failed to persuade Mr. Denktash to accept the U.N. package. Mr. Denktash also has rejected a subsequent call by the European Union to reconsider his stance. He maintained that the U.N. package favoured the Greek Cypriot side.

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## Suspects arraigned in Brooklyn case

NEW YORK (AP) — Rashid Baz, a 23-year-old livery cab driver, pleaded innocent Tuesday at his arraignment for murder in the gunfire attack on a van carrying Hasidic students, one of whom was killed. Two alleged accomplices, accused of hindering prosecution, also were arraigned before Manhattan State Supreme Court Justice George Roberts. They also pleaded innocent. The Lebanese-born Baz said "not guilty" when asked by Mr. Roberts for his plea. He was represented in court by a new lawyer, Eric Sears. Mr. Roberts remanded Mr. Baz to jail without bail, to appear April 6 before Supreme Court Justice Harold Rothwax. The other two are Hial Mohammad, operator of a car repair shop, and Bassam Moussa Reyati, who runs the Pioneer Car Service in Brooklyn's Red Hook district, where Mr. Baz was employed as a driver. Mr. Mohammad and Mr. Reyati, who allegedly helped Mr. Baz dispose of his car and some shell casings after the shooting, remained free on \$20,000 bond each.

# Jordan seeks speedy solution to standoff over Aqaba siege

Washington meeting set for Thursday on proposal for moving Red Sea inspections to port — Anani 'Jordan could not but see blockade as pressure'

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — American and Jordanian officials are scheduled to meet in Washington Thursday to discuss Jordan's demand for a solution to the negative impact on its economy of the de facto blockade of Aqaba imposed by the enforcers of the 44-month-old international sanctions against Iraq. Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference after a regular Council of Ministers meeting, Dr. Anani called on the U.S. to seek a

speedy solution to the problem so that Jordan could go back to the 28-month-old American-backed Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The government has been informed by the Jordanian embassy in Washington that a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday among Jordanian officials and representatives of all concerned U.S. government departments and agencies to discuss the issue, Dr. Anani said.

The Jordanian government urges concerned authorities in the U.S. and also the United Nations to speed up the prop-

osal to replace offshore inspections by onshore inspections by a third neutral party," said Dr. Anani.

Speaking one day after His Majesty King Hussein told the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council that Jordan's resumption of the peace talks was contingent on a satisfactory solution to the siege of Aqaba, Dr. Anani said the Council of Ministers reviewed the King's statement and felt that "Jordan's position has been eloquently and very expressively analysed by His Majesty..."

Dr. Anani said Jordan did not share the view that the

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## Legislature, popular bodies laud King's stand

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of official institutions, political parties and popular organisations Tuesday voiced total support for His Majesty King Hussein's firm stand and his call on the United Nations Security Council's five permanent member states to lift the siege imposed on Aqaba port.

In separate cables to the King, Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House Acting Speaker Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat expressed absolute support for the King's courageous and wise stands towards national, pan-Arab issues.

Mr. Lawzi said: "The influential powers who claim to respect and promote democracy and human rights are applying unjust double standards. They support the oppressor and penalise the oppressed."

"Their practices have never affected the King's firm positions. On the contrary, their actions firmed up the King's

positions, his adherence to what is right and his commitment to pursue the message for which his father, grandfathers and great-grandfathers have sacrificed their lives."

Dr. Tbeishat stressed that the King's position "reflects the people's conscience, aspirations and ambitions." Your Majesty's position adds a new page to the colourful history of the Hashemites and is a new landmark in our history."

The King also received cables from the Secretary General of the Islamic Societies and Organisations Council, the secretary general of the Yaqata party, the chairman of the Freedoms Committee at the Lower House and the director general and staff of the Ports Corporation.

The Lower House of Parliament, in a statement issued last week, called on the government to refuse to return to the U.S.-sponsored peace talks with Israel until the blockade of Aqaba is lifted.

## Jordan: Israeli violence threatens peace process

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Tuesday strongly condemned the escalation of violence by the Israeli army against Palestinians in the occupied territories and said the practices of the occupation authorities raised serious questions over Israel's commitment to achieving a just and durable peace with the Arabs.

The Israeli army said in a statement it had shot dead six Palestinians armed with assault rifles and pistols in the Gaza Strip on Monday. But eyewitnesses said the people killed were unarmed.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation said eight unarmed members of its mainstream movement Fatah were killed.

"We condemn the killing (of six) Palestinians in the Jabeliya camp yesterday and we ask Israel to take its full responsibility for the rising number of

people being killed or wounded in the occupied territories," Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said.

Addressing the press after a regular cabinet meeting, Dr. Anani said the government "believes that the continuation of violence in the occupied territories is an example of Israel's insistence on military means to counter people's resistance..."

"We consider that the rising violence that is being perpetrated and being supported by the Israeli military forces there is not indicative of Israel's will to continue on the path for peace as peace should be followed," the minister said.

Dr. Anani noted that the escalation of Israeli assaults against Palestinians comes on the eve of Land Day, which falls Wednesday when Palestinians in the occupied territories and Arab Israelis mark the anniversary of the killing of

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## Berlusconi storms home in Italian polls

ROME (Agencies) — Media mogul Silvio Berlusconi and his neo-fascist and federalist allies won a stunning victory in Italy's elections on Tuesday, riding a wave of disgust at the country's corruption-ridden past.

While Mr. Berlusconi's right-wing bloc scored a landslide victory, deep-seated differences among its members raised doubts about its ability to form a viable government.

Virtually complete official returns released by the interior ministry gave the three-party Freedom Alliance an absolute majority of 366 seats in the 630-seat Chamber of Deputies.

The alliance, which cashed in on public outrage at rampant corruption in mainstream parties, links Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia (Go Italy) party with the federalist Northern League and the neo-fascist National Alliance.

An eight-party leftist bloc led by former mainstream communists bad 213 seats and the centre bloc 46, the returns showed.

In the 326-seat Senate, which includes 11 life seats, the interior ministry said the rightist coalition had won 155 seats; the left 122 and the centrists 31.

The election, held Sunday and Monday under new rules combining a new first-past-the-post system with traditional proportional representation, was meant to root out the old, corruption-prone system that produced shaky coalition governments through patronage as well as wheeling and dealing.

The result was a crushing defeat for former Communist Achille Occhetto, who seemed assured of victory until Mr. Berlusconi burst onto the scene just two months ago promising a "new economic

miracle," and saying he was the fresh face of Italy.

Mr. Occhetto's broad left progressives pact was a distant second on 213 seats in the lower house. Of the remainder, 46 went to a small centrist alliance including the rump of the disgraced Christian Democrats and five to minor parties.

As the extent of the triumph emerged, Mr. Berlusconi, owner of Europe's largest private media empire and soccer champions AC Milan, pledged to work fast to give Italy its 53rd government since World War II.

Strains in the fractious alliance led by his Forza Italia party, particularly with the federalist Northern League, could cloud the chances of rapid success but Mr. Berlusconi said he was confident differences would be resolved.

"I do not believe that there will be any betrayal of the

electorate which has said exactly what it wants — a united alliance which gives the country a majority and a strong, authoritative government," he told a radio interviewer.

Gianfranco Fini, leader of the neo-fascist National Alliance, also called for a swift government accord.

"Tonight all of Italy knows we have finally won," Mr. Fini told a jubilant midnight victory rally in Rome to straight arm salutes from young supporters.

Financial markets had

surged on Monday on rumours of a clear sweep for the right and on Tuesday operators remained happy with the result.

"The markets have got much of what they wanted. We have a winner. But now we need to see if we will get a government," said Banca di Roma.

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## Ciller urges right to unite after elections

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Tuesday urged the right to unite after Islamists won Istanbul and made striking gains in local elections across the country.

"The people have given the message that the right must unite," she told members of parliament (MPs) of her centre-right True Path Party (DYP), which beat the centre-right Motherland Party into second place.

"The people have clearly signalled what they want and what they don't want. The people want unity and integrity, stability, peace and solutions," Ms. Ciller declared in her first public comment since Sunday's municipal elections.

Ms. Ciller, facing voters for

the first time, has confounded pollsters and pundits by leading the DYP to victory.

Her personal charisma at Turkey's first woman premier and her hardline on Kurdish guerrillas won over enough people to squash talk that her political career was in fatal danger.

There was no immediate reaction from Motherland leader Mesut Yilmaz to Ms. Ciller's remarks, but Hurriyet newspaper on Tuesday quoted him as saying:

"A search for a new government is not called for and Motherland is not enthusiastic. Forming a new coalition would take time and Turkey has no time to lose."

The pro-Islamic Welfare Party (RP) grabbed the most

coveted electoral prize with its win in Istanbul, Turkey's commercial capital and home to one-sixth of its 60 million people.

The RP also swept rebellious mainly Kurdish provinces in the east and southeast, in the absence of the Kurdish nationalist Democracy Party, which did not contest the elections.

With most counting complete, the RP, led by veteran politician Necmettin Erbakan, had won about 18.3 per cent of the overall vote, nearly double its total in 1989 local elections.

But Ms. Ciller's DYP, with 22.5 per cent, kept just ahead of the main opposition Motherland Party, on 21.2 per cent. The junior coalition partner, the Social Democrat

Populist Party (SHP), was the big loser with only 13.2 per cent.

Istanbul stocks fell back in quiet early trading after gaining five per cent on Monday on relief that Ms. Ciller would not be forced into an early general election. Near the end of the session the 69-share index had dropped 446 points to 13,768.

Brokers said the market was waiting for news of an austerity package planned by Ms. Ciller to tackle Turkey's runaway public deficits and inflation, now at an annual 73 per cent.

Overnight lira interbank rates remained as high as 1,000 per cent, but the lira came

(Continued on page 5)

Panic in Istanbul's night-life area, page 10

## King attends military festivities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday attended a celebration organised by the Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein Battalion to mark its anniversary and His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh's birthday. King Hussein was received at the celebration site by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Miral, the battalion's commander and other senior army officers.

The celebration included military exercises, cultural shows and the traditional dances. At the end of the ceremony, the commander of the battalion presented King Hussein and Prince



Hamzeh with token gifts. In addition to Prince Hamzeh, King Hussein was accompanied to the celebra-

tion by His Royal Highness Prince Hashem Ben Hussein and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

## Israelis kill 1, injure 60 in escalated bloodshed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Troops shot dead at least one Palestinian and wounded 61 others when violence erupted across the occupied territories on Tuesday after the killing of six Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) activists, Palestinian sources said.

As the fighting raged on, PLO and Israeli negotiators met in Cairo to discuss security plans for Palestinians in Hebron, where dozens of worshippers were killed by a Jewish gunman last month (see separate story).

Clashes erupted across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank as Palestinians protested Monday's killing of an army under-

cover unit of six members of the Hawks, the armed wing of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

A soldier perched on a rooftop shot dead Omar Awad Al Qabani, in the Gaza refugee camp of Bureij.

Troops shot and wounded 22 other Palestinians on the Gaza Strip, 10 of them when violence broke out during a march by 2,000 demonstrators called by Fatah, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The protesters set off from Shati refugee camp and marched to the Sheik Radwan army camp, where they threw stones at troops who returned

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## PLO meets Israelis 'to receive answers'

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli negotiators reopened talks Tuesday aimed at ensuring security for Palestinians as killings of six Palestinians by Israel's army set off renewed violence in the occupied territories.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat threatened to scrap the session because of the slayings, but Palestinians here and at PLO headquarters in Tunis said talks began in secret.

Initial meetings began at midafternoon between the two chief delegates, the PLO's Nabil Shaath and Israeli Major General Amnon Shahak, Palestinian sources said.

"The Palestinians want guarantees from the Israelis when it comes to the security and protection of Palestinian people," he told the Associated Press by telephone from PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Israel has agreed in principle to posting international observers in Hebron, but it is arguing for a force in the dozens, while the PLO wants up to 200.

One Palestinian source said

that if agreement is reached on the Hebron issue, the negotiators could move quickly to discussing the Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

Abbas Zaki, a member of the central committee of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction, said the Palestinians want Israel's answers on how many foreign observers and Palestinian police will be allowed as a security force in Hebron.

"The Palestinians want guarantees from the Israelis when it comes to the security and protection of Palestinian people," he told the Associated Press by telephone from PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Israel has agreed in principle to posting international observers in Hebron, but it is arguing for a force in the dozens, while the PLO wants up to 200.

The Israeli delegation had waited at the Cairo hotel where the talks were meant to start but the Palestinians did not arrive. About an hour and half later they left by a back door.

The Israeli delegation had come to finish off talks on protecting Palestinians in Hebron.

Thus in retrospect the U.S. and Israel have been able practically to reduce Resolution 904 to coax the PLO back to the negotiating table without hindering Israel to any of the responsibilities entailed in the resolution.

Instead the PLO had to drop its initial demands for full-fledged international protection for the Palestinians, disarming the settlers and evacuation of settlers from the center of Hebron in return for a token foreign observer unit and to the deployment of Palestinian police while the Israeli army retains the final upper hand.

ANALYSIS

Mr. Arafat's acceptance of such a compromise, as many PLO officials fear, could only reinforce the Israeli position dealing a serious blow to the PLO in the occupied territories.

The massacre by an Israeli settler of dozens of Palestinians on Feb. 25, and the Israeli clampdown that followed have tragically under-

scored the shortcomings of both the Israeli-Palestinian pact and flawed the PLO performance at the talks and Cairo.

Although the Hebron massacre has been a sharp turning point that stalled the talks, the peace process — at least regarding the Palestinian issue — was already foundering and there were no signs of change on the ground.

As early as January the mood was already shifting in the West Bank and Gaza as euphoria was replaced by bitterness and cynicism. The PLO was already losing its credibility among many people in Gaza

# Middle East News

## News ban raises fears for Lebanon press freedoms

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese television and radio chiefs, shocked by a ban on their news bulletins, say they believe the government's promise that it is temporary but they will watch to see that totalitarian tendencies do not take hold.

Arguing that civil peace was at stake, the Syrian-backed government last week ordered Lebanon's 50 private television and 100 radio stations to halt newscasts and political programmes pending a law organising the audiovisual media.

"Some newspapers immediately condemned the ban as an ominous reversal of Lebanon's tradition of press and media freedoms unmatched in the Arab World."

"This government is moving Lebanon towards police rule," Al Diyar daily said. "We ask Prime Minister (Rafik) Al Hariri, has he come with his government to put Lebanon in a big prison?"

The government was due to study the draft of an audiovisual media law on Tuesday, but officials said privately it could take months to pass parliament and become law.

Pro-government sources said some people in the government wanted the law to impose uniform government-supervised newscasts on all radio and television stations.

The government justified last week's move — which came hand-in-hand with a ban on the Lebanese Forces (LF), a former Christian militia — by saying several stations were playing "sectarian tunes."

Two pro-government sources said the LF was trying to mount a Christian revolt against the government after several LF members were charged with bombing a church in which 10 worshippers died.

The government-owned National News Agency heightened concern by reporting that two dailies would be prosecuted for publishing false re-

ports on the interrogations of the LF members.

Newspapers are not affected by the ban. It is aimed at the scores of private radio and television stations that sprang up during the 1975-90 civil war, for which no regulatory law exists.

However, the spiritual leader of the Maronite Christians, Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, issued a solemn warning against the ban becoming permanent.

"Such a measure would lead in effect to the end of Lebanon and to wiping Lebanon from the map of the world," he said in a homily.

The National Press Syndicate called the ban a dangerous development and demanded its cancellation.

"Behind the temporary cabinet decision there are intentions to transform it into something permanent," the syndicate said.

Heads of private stations told Reuters they were respecting the ban because they were told it was temporary.

"In my opinion this ban is temporary. If it is not, then that would be tightening the noose on the reason for Lebanon's existence: freedom," said Simon Al Khazen, director of Voice of Lebanon, mouthpiece of the Christian Falange Party.

He said the 1989 Taif peace pact that ended the civil war stipulated organising the private media, not shutting it down or cutting programmes.

Information Minister Michel Samaha said that once parliament approved the audiovisual media law, private stations could resume normal broadcasts.

But a source close to the government said the law might be delayed. "It is a controversial bill so it will not get through parliament before May when parliament goes into recess for summer until October," he said.

## U.S. military formally concludes Somalia role

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE (R) — The U.S. military formally ended its role in Somalia at a ceremony Monday for the commanders of the operation.

An air force C-141 Starlifter carrying Major-General Thomas Montgomery, commander of U.S. forces in Somalia, and his staff pulled up to a banger for the ceremony with Pentagon officials.

Gen. Montgomery and his staff, still wearing their desert camouflage fatigues, marched past an honour guard at this air force base outside Washington for the ceremony.

"Most of us left Somalia with mixed emotions," Gen. Montgomery said. "But we are proud of what we accomplished."

He said the U.S. forces and forces from other countries still in Somalia have given the Somalis "a chance to recover from a disastrous civil war and a terrible famine."

"Hundreds of thousands of Somalis are alive because we came to their rescue," the general said. "We have given them a chance to build a new future for themselves."

Among the officials present to welcome back Gen. Montgomery and his staff of about 20 officers were General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the

U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Under-Secretary of Defense John Deutch.

The ceremony formally ended U.S. military involvement in Somalia, which began nearly 16 months ago in December 1992 when U.S. Marines went ashore under the glare of television camera lights.

It began as a U.S. operation only to aid food distribution to starving Somalis but later turned into a hunt for Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed after his militia attacked and killed U.N. peacekeepers.

The fiercest battle of the operation last October killed 18 American soldiers and wounded 75. The body of one of the dead Americans was dragged through the streets of the Somali capital Mogadishu.

Under pressure from Congress, President Bill Clinton promised to have all American forces out of Somalia by the end of March. The pullout was completed Friday.

Thirty U.S. soldiers were killed in the operation, plus 14 who died in non-battle accidents. A total of 175 were injured.

The only U.S. soldiers left in Somalia now are 50 marines guarding the American embassy and 13 army logistics specialists.



Women and children fill containers with water in Mogadishu, where contaminated water has been one of the causes of cholera gripping the entire country (AFP photo)

## Somali factions say they plan to unite in forty days

NAIROBI (R) — Rival Somali factions said on Tuesday they planned to unite within 40 days as part of a peace deal for the southern port of Kismayu and the rest of the south.

The agreement is significant in the sense that Kismayu is widely seen by U.N. officials as a flashpoint for renewed civil war in Somalia with the withdrawal this month of U.S. troops and allied contingents from U.N. peacekeeping forces.

Rival wings of the Somalia Peoples Movement (SPM) said in a joint statement their leaders had agreed to an immediate end to hostilities and a start to peace and reconciliation after talks in Nairobi sponsored by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

General Adan Abdullahi Nur and Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess, chairman of the SPM factions, said they should tour the south to kick off reconciliation and set up a mechanism to unify their movements.

Forces under Col. Jess and warlord General Mohammad Said Hersi "Morgan" have repeatedly fought for control of Kismayu, the gateway to the fertile south, since Somalia's civil war erupted in 1991.

Gen. Morgan was not present at Tuesday news conference but Gen. Nur said he fully backed the peace pact signed on Monday, four days after an agreement between Somalia's most powerful warlords.

They also called for a conference to discuss ways of setting up administrative units in the southern Somalia region and arranging reconciliation with other Somalian clans or groups.

The Kismayu agreement was reached after two weeks of talks in Nairobi sponsored by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

Col. Jess said a meeting of southern faction chiefs called for April 8 was too soon as they needed time to narrow differences.

Mohammad Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi Mohammad, the two most powerful warlords in Somalia, agreed on Thursday to a ceasefire across the country to end fighting since the fall of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991.

They scheduled a reconciliation conference for May 15 in Mogadishu to elect a president and set up a new government.

Gen. Nur, known as "Gabyow" (the poet), and Col. Jess said they would set up a reconciliation committee of their Absame sub-clan and appealed to all communities to oppose any action endangering the peace process.

The representatives appealed to all communities to avoid and jointly oppose any action that jeopardised the peace process.

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### Hostages 'treated well'

An Australian and a Kenyan freed after 15 days in captivity said they feared constantly for their lives while they were in the bands of an unstable Somali kidnap gang.

Wayne Hargreaves, 47, and John Warui, 32, employees of an Australian catering firm that provides meals to U.N. personnel in Somalia, were released unharmed Sunday night after 15 days of negotiations.

"We were in a desperate situation. The group was destabilised and didn't agree for one that we would survive another day," Mr. Hargreaves, an Australian, told reporters Monday.

"I definitely regard this as the first day of a new life," he said.

David Morris, of Morris Catering, said he gave the kidnappers seven 50 kilogrammes sacks of rice, 18 one-kilogrammes drums of cooking oil, some corned beef and some sugar.

Mr. Hargreaves said the kidnappers, who were armed with rocket-propelled grenades, machine-guns and assault rifles, had at first demanded \$1 million in ransom. Over time the demands dropped to \$5,000 and then to \$2,000 before the bargain was reached for the food.

## China opposes sanctions on Libya

BELING (R) — China said on Tuesday it opposed U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya because of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, underlining its opposition to any U.N. sanctions against North Korea over its nuclear programme.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told visiting Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Montasser that Beijing "understands and sympathises with Libya" over the sanctions issue, the official Xinhua news agency said.

"We disapprove of imposing sanctions on Libya, let alone imposing severer sanctions," Mr. Qian was quoted as saying.

China's position on U.N. sanctions has come under scrutiny as the crisis continues over North Korea's refusal to allow unfettered international inspection of its nuclear programme.

Beijing, one of five veto-holding permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, abstained from the 1992 vote that imposed sanctions on Libya.

These were in retaliation for Tripoli's refusal to hand over the two men accused of involvement with the 1988 bombing of Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. The crash killed 270 people.

Western countries, led by the United States, have brought up the possibility of sanctions against North Korea unless it opens its nuclear facilities to full inspection.

China has resisted this call.

During an official visit this week, South Korean President Kim Young-Sam was told by top Chinese leaders that negotiations was the only way to resolve the impasse over North Korea's nuclear sites, which the West suspects are being used to develop atomic bombs.

Mr. Qian told Mr. Montasser that Beijing felt the U.N. sanctions against Libya had been counterproductive.

"Sanctions against Libya have brought about pains to the Libyan people and caused difficulties for Libya's neighbouring countries and other countries concerned, thus intensifying the already strained regional situation," Xinhua added.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PLO wants elected W. Bank mayors reinstated

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A former Arab mayor said on Monday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wants Israel to reinstate West Bank municipal councils it deposed more than 10 years ago. Such a move would facilitate an agreement on protecting Palestinians in Hebron after a massacre in a mosque last month. Former Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natsheh said PLO officials told him the subject was raised in talks on providing security for Hebron's 110,000 Palestinians. "They told me this is one of the proposals which is the return of all of the deposed municipal councils, starting with Hebron," Natsheh said. Mr. Natsheh said he was ready to return to the municipality. An aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin confirmed the subject was raised by the PLO but refused to comment. Israel deposed the elected pro-PLO municipal councils in 1982 after they refused to go along with Israeli plans to establish self-rule in the occupied territories under the Egypt-Israel Camp David peace accord. The elected mayors were initially replaced by Israeli army officers and later Israel appointed local councils despite PLO objections.

### Egyptians say police killed civilians

CAIRO (AP) — A member of Egypt's parliament was sent to a village near Assiut on Monday to calm angry complaints that police accidentally killed civilians during a shootout with extremists the night before. Four people were slain when police opened fire on a taxi just after four policemen, including three officers, were wounded by gunshots in the village of Ghanayem, 320 kilometres south of Cairo. The villagers charge that the taxi had nothing to do with the attack on police. But officials said one of the passengers was an armed extremist who had opened fire on officers approaching to check the car near village police headquarters. Assiut and surrounding villages have been a centre of attacks by radicals, who often target police in their campaign to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with Islamic rule. Parliament Member Musa Abd el-Khalek met with people in Ghanayem on Monday. Witnesses said the villagers argued police opened fire on the taxi because it approached immediately after the attack. The Christian driver, Zagholoul Hana, was killed along with a three passengers — a woman university student, a teacher and a man identified by villagers as a peasant. The interior ministry statement insisted that the supposed peasant was a radical who opened fire on police with a pistol stolen earlier from a policeman.

### Iranian police kill opium smuggler in shootout

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian police killed a drug smuggler and arrested a second after a shootout in eastern Iran, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. The smugglers shot and wounded a woman during the clash near the provincial capital Mashhad on Saturday. Police seized 81 kilograms of opium, 10 rifles and a pistol from the traffickers, the agency said. Iran is on a major drug trafficking route from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Europe.

### Former GE executive pleads innocent

CINCINNATI (AP) — a former General Electric GE Company executive pleaded innocent Monday to federal charges that he was involved in an alleged scheme to siphon \$11 million in U.S. military aid to Israel. Herbert B. Steinberg, 55, was indicted March 17 on charges of conspiracy, mail and wire fraud, money laundering, making false statements and violating the anti-bribery and records provisions of the foreign corrupt practices act. He was arraigned Monday in U.S. district court before Magistrate Robert Steinberg. GE fired Mr. Steinberg in March 1991 for his alleged role in the fraud. Mr. Steinberg was a GE international sales manager at the time. Indicted with Mr. Steinberg were Rami Dotan, 49, a former Israeli brigadier general now serving a 13-year prison term in Israel, and Harold Katz, 72, the Israeli lawyer who allegedly laundered the money through European bank accounts. Mr. Dotan had been in charge of buying and maintaining aircraft engines for Israel's air force. Federal prosecutors said Monday they want Mr. Dotan and Mr. Katz brought to Cincinnati to stand trial with Mr. Steinberg. The indictment charges that the money was diverted between 1988 and 1990 from defence contracts between GE and Israel. The contracts were for jet engines and related products and services.

### Police arrest suspected killer of Hamdi

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have arrested a film impresario in connection with the killing of actress Widad Hamdi this week. Cairo newspapers said on Tuesday. The man, Matta Hanna Gbali, was confessed to police that he stabbed Hamdi dead in her Cairo flat last Friday because he was short of money and planned to rob her, they said. The killer stole 270 pounds (\$80) and a wristwatch. He could not find the actress' jewellery, they added. Hamdi, 65, specialised in playing the role of servant.

### Dutch official in Gulf to build relations

KUWAIT (R) — Dutch Deputy Defence Minister Tom Frinking said on a tour of five Gulf states he was trying to strengthen relations and to assess the stability of the region. "I want to stress the interest of the Dutch government in the region," he told reporters late on Monday after meeting Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah. "I'm on a political tour. The main objective is to show the point of discussion." He said Gulf officials had a "double feeling" that the region was secure but that concerns and issues related to bigger countries in the region could arise. He will be interested if Kuwait invited invitations to tender for the construction of naval vessels, but he had no discussions on this subject. Diplomats say Kuwait is considering buying eight fast patrol boats and six missile attack boats among other weapons. Kuwaiti officials visited the Netherlands on a world tour of shipyards last year to learn about the ability of various countries to provide naval equipment.

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Ankara ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 5:00 a.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damaskus (AF) ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Dep. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper price in fils per kg.  
Apples ..... 550/650  
Banana ..... 60/80  
Cabbage ..... 620  
Carrot ..... 240/320  
Cauliflower ..... 160/200  
Clementine ..... 80/100  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 260/300  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 130/180  
Eggs (dozen) ..... 260/300  
Grape Fruiti ..... 100/120  
Green beans ..... 240/280  
Lemon ..... 160/200  
Marrow (large) ..... 120/160  
Marrow (small) ..... 80/120  
Olives (green) ..... 240/280  
Onion (dry) ..... 400/480  
Onion (green) ..... 500/600  
Peach ..... 250/300  
Pepper (hot) ..... 520/650  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 560/700  
Potato ..... 120/180  
Radish ..... 120/160  
Tomato ..... 120/160  
Spinach ..... 420/500  
String beans ..... 600/700

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue	

# Home News

## Anani says government's respect for professional unions does not exempt them from abiding by the Constitution

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Jawaad Anani Tuesday denied reports in the local press and statements issued by the professional unions that the government was trying to weaken the unions or acting against their interests.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Prime Ministry, Dr. Anani said that the government respects the professional unions and their institutions and members, and appreciates their role in serving the Jordanian society.

But that does not mean that differences between a government ministry and the unions can never emerge in the course of their normal dealings with one another, said Dr. Anani.

"A state of law normally resorts to legal and constitu-

tional procedures in order to settle differences," added the minister.

On the whole, he said, the government expects from the professional unions to practise a constructive role in all matters, adding that differences of views with the government do not mean that democracy in Jordan is in danger.

"We hope to further deepen the role the unions play, to help them construct society and help the country confront and deal with challenges in the future," said the minister who added that these issues, and others, were reviewed by the Council of Ministers at Tuesday's session.

The government, stressed Dr. Anani, has no differences whatsoever, with the profes-

sional unions and does not wish to reduce their importance or expose them to any danger, but "in all cases we would always resort to legal procedures to settle differences."

Referring to His Majesty King Hussein's donation of JD 60,000 to install dialysis units at Jerash and Madaba hospitals, the minister noted that the government was determined to back the efforts of the Friends of the Kidney Patients Society.

He added that the society has opened the door for donations from any source because it requires more funds to provide for the treatment of the needy patients. The minister said that the monthly cost of treatment by dialysis is estimated at JD 1,000 and there-

fore the government hopes the public will offer generous donations to the society.

According to Dr. Anani, the Cabinet also discussed public administration affairs, noting that some of the government buildings do not serve their purpose and the government was making arrangements to set up new, properly designed government buildings.

Another question discussed by the Cabinet Tuesday was providing homes for government employees in remote regions. He said the minister of public works has been requested to conduct a study of this issue and supply the government with designs for homes that can be set up in remote regions in two months' time.

## Princess Basma explains QAF strategy to wife of German official

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday received Marita Blüm, wife of Norbert Blüm, German minister of labour, at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), according to a QAF statement.

Mrs. Blüm, who was accompanied by Mrs. Khaled Ghizawi, wife of the minister of labour, as well as Mrs. Heinrich Reiners, wife of the German ambassador to Jordan, was briefed about social development in Jordan and the role QAF plays in economic and social development in needy rural and urban areas.

The visitors were also briefed on the role of the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW), which is hosted by QAF, as a national policy forum for women's issues.

According to QAF, JNCW supervises the implementation of the National Strategy for Women which was ratified in 1993, in addition to preparing for the 1995 International Women's Conference in Beijing.

Princess Basma explained to the visitors the strategy of QAF which aims at involving women in community life through projects that gener-



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday briefs Marita Blüm, wife of visiting German Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Norbert Blüm, at QAF headquarters (Petra photo).

ate income.

The implementation of these projects is a proven way to advance the status of women in any community, said the Princess.

Prior to arriving at QAF headquarters, the visitors toured the Nuzha Social Development Centre that was established by QAF and is

run by the Jordanian Save the Children Fund.

Mrs. Blüm commented on the efficiency of QAF's comprehensive approach which allows women to participate in a variety of educational and economic activities while at the same time offers child care, said the statement.

Mrs. Blüm also said she

was impressed by QAF's strategy of combining over 15 years of experience working at the grass roots level, with the exploration of new ideas and new economic projects, and supporting smaller non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community groups to become self-sufficient.

Li. Gen. Ghoul said the CDD had recently received four ambulances, three large water tankers, and an expanded ambulance with a nine-patient capacity, and two heavy-duty cranes.

He said the new equipment will be on display at an exhibition on the sidelines of the conference at the CDD. He said the CDD was able to purchase the equipment from a JD1.6 million grant from the Austrian government. Gen. Ghoul said this grant is part of a protocol signed between the Jordanian and the Austrian governments.

The meeting will be attended by delegates from different parts of the world who will present working pa-

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pers for discussion.

"While we express our total astonishment at the U.S. administration's insistence on conducting inspections on your nuclear programme through the help of the U.N. Security Council, which has become a tool in Washington's hands, we also note that the United States administration protects and enhances Israel's nuclear programme and an arsenal of hundreds of nuclear heads that perpetually threaten the Arab region's security," said the IAF.

In conjunction with the sanctions on Sudan is American continued support for the separatist movement in the South of the country a move which, the letter said, is designed to weaken the Sudanese people and keep them sub-

jected and under American control.

"While we express our total astonishment at the U.S. administration's insistence on conducting inspections on your nuclear programme through the help of the U.N. Security Council, which has become a tool in Washington's hands, we also note that the United States administration protects and enhances Israel's nuclear programme and an arsenal of hundreds of nuclear heads that perpetually threaten the Arab region's security," said the IAF.

Such practices, concluded the letter, provide a stark evidence of the United States' double standard policy.

Dr. Sabelash, who will review the past and present relations of eye and dental problems in her lecture to the JDA conference, explained

## Premier, visiting German labour minister review common unemployment problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and visiting German Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Norbert Blüm Tuesday discussed cooperation in solving unemployment issues and social affairs in both countries.

The German minister said at the meeting held at the Prime Ministry, that Germany was facing unemployment, especially among recent university graduates, but he added that his country was willing to cooperate with Jordan in finding solutions to labour-related problems.

Both the prime minister and Mr. Blüm stressed their countries' desire to collaborate on all levels and in various fields.

Thanking Germany for its continued assistance to Jordan, Dr. Majali said that he hoped that the German government would now help the Kingdom in promoting its vocational training programmes to help stem unemployment, as well as assist in carrying out more development projects that can provide jobs.

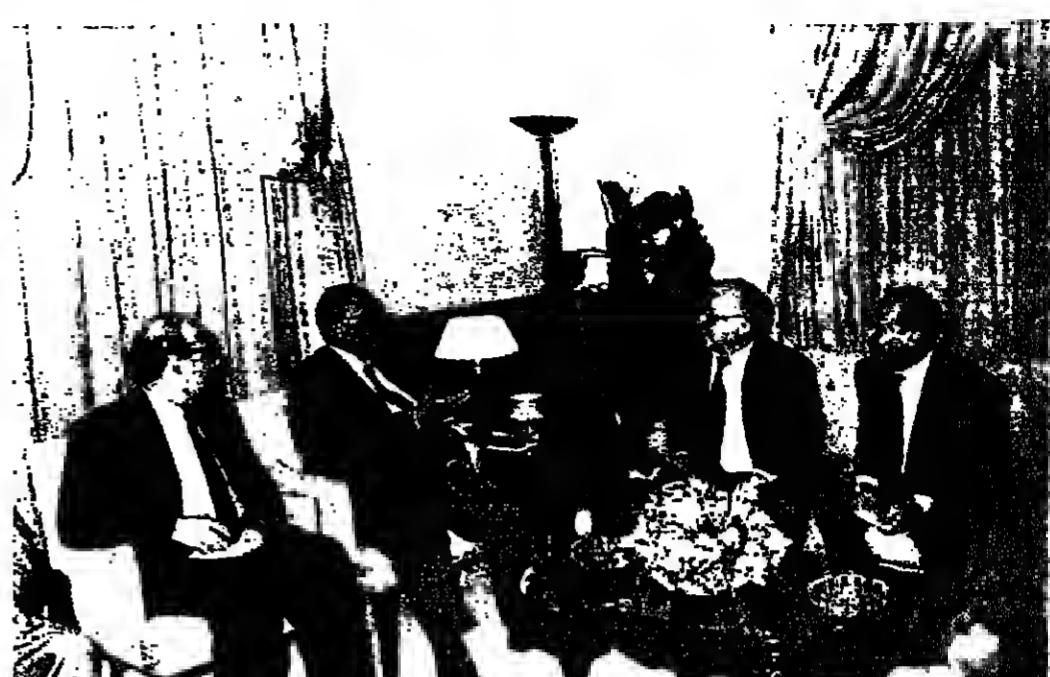
Jordan, Dr. Majali said, is in need of assistance to solve its water-related problems in view of the growth in its population.

He said the Kingdom was looking forward to the achievement of a just and durable peace, adding that Jordan hopes Germany would help in this area.

Dr. Majali also said Jordan seeks Germany's support in ending the siege imposed on the port of Aqaba over the past three years, because it has been causing untold sufferings and hurting the national economy.

The prime minister added that Jordan has borne the brunt of the consequences of the Gulf war, and its economy has been severely hit by the U.N.-imposed sanctions on Iraq and the siege on Aqaba.

Speaking during a visit to the Schneller Vocational Training Centre near Russeifa, Mr. Blüm said crafts and manual



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday receives visiting German Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Norbert Blüm (Petra photo)

and vocational work were more important to the national economy than academic education, and constitute the main tool for economic success.

The German minister, who earlier held talks with several Jordanian ministers, was accompanied on a tour of the workshops at the Schneller centre, which offers training in carpentry and auto-maintenance and trains future blacksmiths.

The minister took part in some of the students' activities and listened to an Arabic language lesson.

Centre Director Sami Habibi explained to Mr. Blüm that the school, which was inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein in 1966, offers training to 250 orphaned students between the ages of six and 21.

Mr. Habibi also outlined the various programmes and development stages of the school which has been the fruit of

joint Jordanian-German cooperation in labour affairs.

The Schneller institution of Germany first set up a school in Jerusalem in 1860 and later a primary school near Ramleh in now occupied Palestine.

The Jerusalem school was a full secondary and industrial school; the one near Ramleh offered primary education and was adjointed by a large farm.

The Schneller School in Amman, which is now run by the Anglican Church and community, offers academic as well as vocational training to students. Germany had provided instructors at the start and they remained until 1988; the training is now conducted by Arabic instructors.

According to Mr. Habibi, the students receive an academic education until the 10th grade and later they follow a vocational training curriculum.

Mr. Blüm discussed German-Jordanian cooperation in labour affairs earlier with Minister of Labour Khaled Ghizawi, and said he exchanged views with his counterpart on matters related to organising the local labour market and the German experience in this area.

Also the two ministers discussed vocational training and ways to develop human resources and workers skills.

Mr. Blüm also met with Minister of Youth Abdallah Oweidat, with whom he discussed prospects of cooperation in youth and sports affairs.

Mr. Oweidat reviewed the ministry's plans for developing school sports, physical activities for handicapped youth and youth clubs in Jordan.

Later, Mr. Blüm met with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid Asfour to discuss issues of mutual concern.

## Dentists' annual meeting to centre on continuous education, surgery advances

By Jennifer Hamarneh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Beginning today and branching over into next week dentists, laboratory specialists, educators and some sectors of the media will be concentrating on the importance of good oral hygiene.

For the next three days, starting today, the Jordan Dentists Association (JDA) will hold its annual conference.

This year's theme is coordination and cooperation in order to develop the performance on the dental surgeon through continuous education.

JDA board member Huda Fakhouri told the Jordan Times that the lectures to be presented will cover most aspects of dental surgery, preventive medicine, and treatment. A special focus will be placed on facial and jaw surgeries.

Another category of emphasis will be incidental surgery and children's surgery. Here, modern advances in orthodontics and bridge work will be dealt with.

Other speakers will address the treatment of elderly and handicapped patients.

There will be a session conducted by dentists and laboratory specialists stressing the importance of patient referrals from dentists to laboratories in order to avoid complications, particularly in chronic cases.

Another lecture will discuss the relationship between eye diseases and dental problems.

According to ophthalmologist Sura Sabelash, the link between eye and teeth problems was made as far back as Babylonian times when King Asarhadon complained of head and feet troubles and his physician advised him to have his teeth extracted.

Dr. Sabelash, who will review the past and present relations of eye and dental problems in her lecture to the JDA conference, explained

that the main source of sensation to the eyes comes from the trigeminal nerve which supplies sensation to the entire eye area as well as to the upper and lower jaws.

"This explains some of the related symptoms affecting both the eyes and the teeth," she told the Jordan Times.

She added that some symptoms of pain in the eye or the temporal area can be traced to tooth decay.

More than 40 lecturers from Jordan, other Arab states, Britain and Germany are expected to participate.

On the third and final day of the conference, a specialised workshop on X-ray procedures will be conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy. The aim of the workshop is to license dentists to use X-ray equipment.

Sameera Saquer, head of the division at the Ministry of Energy charged with licensing and inspecting all medical institutions and establishments using radiation sources, explained that the workshop is geared towards dentists who have been practising for nearly three decades, i.e., prior to laws and regulations governing the use of radiation in medicine in Jordan.

Mrs. Saquer told the Jordan Times that in order to be licensed to operate X-ray equipment, new dentists are required by law and the Code of Practice to attend a 20-hour course.

The Ministry, she said, has modified that course into the workshop to be held Friday, in order to accommodate the veteran dentists. Mrs. Saquer will be part of the lecture team at the workshop and will speak about radiation protection in dental procedures.

On the sidelines of the conference, Jordanian pharmaceutical companies and stores specialised in dentistry material and equipment will display their products at an exhibition.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designed



A photo from an information pamphlet published by the Jordanian committee planning the activities to mark "Healthy Oral Hygiene Year"

nated 1994 as the Year of Healthy Oral Hygiene. Coinciding with the conference, Jordan will mark this campaign on April 7.

Dr. Fakhouri told the Jordan Times that a committee of representatives of the ministries of health and education, the JDA, the colleges of dentistry at the University of Jordan and the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has been working on a programme to educate the public, especially schoolchildren, on the benefits of maintaining a healthy mouth and teeth.

The Ministry of Education is engaging the country's schools in a children's drawing and essay competition on the subject. The drawings will be put on display in the main hall of the Teachers' Club in Amman, and winners of the contest will be announced on April 7.

On April 8, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein will launch a march to commemorate 1994 as the Year of Healthy Oral Hygiene.

Marchers will start off from the Haya Arts Centre in Shmeissani (Amman) and walk to the Orthodox Club in Abdoun, where a celebration for the participating children will be held, including music, folkore dancing and other activities.

## IAF sends letter of support to N. Korea, denounces U.S. threats against Pyongyang

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Tuesday voiced its support for North Korea in the face of what it called U.S. arrogance and attempts to humiliate the North Korean people and tamper with their internal affairs.

In a letter addressed to President Kim Il Sung through the North Korean ambassador in Amman, the IAF denounced U.S. attempts to conduct inspections on North Korea's nuclear programme at a time when Washington continues to provide unlimited assistance to the Jewish state by helping it to build up its own nuclear arsen-

als.

The Americans continue to supply military assistance to the Israelis who continue to occupy Palestinian land and cause the dispersion of Palestinians throughout the world, said the letter.

American threats levelled against North Korea remind us of the tragedy and the suffering of the Iraqi people who continue to endure the consequences of the unjust war waged on them and the results of the embargo on its children and women, the letter continued.

At the same time, it said, the Americans continue to pursue a policy aimed at humiliating the Iraqi people and devastat-

## WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Exhibition entitled "Writers Do Draw" by Jamal Naji, Ibrahim Nasrallah, and Farouq Wadi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Plastic art exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Qader Azzouz and Amin Al Droubi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695251/2).

★ Book exhibition at the Safeway International.

★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ Festival of national songs at Al Hassan Ibn Talal Auditorium at the University of Jordan at 2:00 p.m.

★ Drama entitled "A Very Symbolic Play" at the main theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

★ Drama entitled "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by the Ahliya School at the studio theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1994

## Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

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### The things that Jordan knows

U.S. STATE Department spokesman Michael McCurry was only stating the obvious when he said Monday that peace is "manifestly in Jordan's interest." Not that what he said were new. Jordan has always recognised this; His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly said that Jordan seeks peace because it is in Jordan's best interest. Only last month the King reiterated this position when he told members of the Upper House of Parliament that peace was a strategic objective for Jordan.

McCurry's remarks came during a testing session with journalists who grilled him over American policy towards Iraq, following a threat by the King that Jordan would boycott the U.S.-sponsored peace process unless the blockade on Aqaba were lifted. The session exposed the U.S. double standard when the treatment of the Iraqi people was compared to that of Haitians. Nonetheless, as far as Jordan is concerned, and as Information Minister Jawad Anani made it clear yesterday, "the whole peace process was...generated by the Gulf war." Former U.S. President George Bush had insisted during the Gulf crisis that once that conflict was settled and Iraqi occupation forces left Kuwait the Middle East peace process would start, which was the case.

Now the Jordanian people cannot understand two things: Why should the sanctions on Iraq continue? and Why is Jordan being punished? On the first count, Iraq seems to have abided by all U.N. Security Council resolutions. Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. special representative, has more or less confirmed this. When the council met last week to review the situation regarding the sanctions, it failed to issue a statement because France, China, Russia and the rest of the Council members wanted to include a sentence in the statement commanding Iraq's cooperation with the Council. The U.S. and Britain refused. McCurry still insists that the sanctions will continue because Iraq "is not in full compliance" with the Security Council resolutions, though he acknowledges that the Iraqi children are suffering, an attitude that Jordanians do not understand or accept.

On the count of the Aqaba blockade, the Jordanian leadership is at pains justifying the Kingdom's cooperation with the other parties to the peace process while the main cosponsor, the U.S., is subjecting Jordan to a treatment that is hurting its economy.

We do of course appreciate the quick American response to Jordan's complaint. And we hope that the Washington meeting tomorrow will address our grievances and put an end to the blockade of Aqaba.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily commented on King Hussein's decision to link Jordan's return to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations with the end of the three-year siege on Aqaba by saying enough is enough. We have been patient with the inspections and the harassment of international shipping operations in the Gulf of Aqaba for so long, said the paper. The inspection and the interception of ships are unjustified and carried out against a country not involved in the Gulf war in any way, said the paper. Referring to King Hussein's meeting with the ambassadors of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the paper said that it is up to the U.N. Security Council now to decide on a halt to such a practice against a U.N. member state. The paper said that Jordan should protect its own sovereignty and national interests and cannot withstand further acts of repression and unjustified arbitrary actions on the part of any nation. Jordan, added the paper, cannot be part of a peace process if it is subject to repression and acts considered as violating its own sovereignty. Indeed, said the paper, the siege on Aqaba is viewed by the Kingdom as part of the ongoing pressure on the Jordanians to succumb to the will of hostile forces and to change its national stands. It said that the malpractices against Jordan, which have caused the country severe economic losses, should stop before Jordan can resume its role in the peace-making process.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday discussed the issue of the rising number of road accidents in Jordan and urged the Traffic Department and the Greater Amman Municipality to take measures that would end the carnage on the streets. Reckless drivers who drive speedily, killing and maiming citizens and causing severe property damage are not worthy of being affiliated to the country and should be locked up in prisons and deprived of any driving licence, demanded Tareq Masarweh. It is not enough to talk sweetly to the drivers on the radio, cautioning them to abide by the traffic rules, but it is rather important for the concerned authorities to take drastic and prompt measures to put an end to acts of severe traffic violations by any motorist, said the writer. He said that the municipality ought to decide on fixed bus stops and draw up schedules for bus transport operations along all routes inside the city. The writer demanded that foreign help from advanced nations be enlisted to enable the local authorities to organise traffic, suggesting that recurrent violators of traffic laws be denied driving licences.



### Main elements of U.S. policy in the Gulf

WASHINGTON — The United States recognises that the greatest potential danger to regional security in the Gulf lies in the threats which may come from either Iran or Iraq, and has redefined U.S. policy accordingly. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Toni G. Verstandig said March 22.

"These states pose different challenges. Their threats require different policies" than those established in the Carter Doctrine of the 1980's. Ms. Verstandig said.

Speaking on "Principal Elements of United States Policy in the Gulf" before the National Security Industrial Association conference, Ms. Verstandig said Gulf geostrategic policies of the Clinton administration have been detailed by National Security Advisor Anthony Lake in his article "Confronting Backlash States," which appeared in the March/April issue of the Foreign Affairs journal.

"The basic strategic principle for the U.S. in the Gulf, as defined in the Lake article, is to protect critical American interests in the security of our friends and in the free flow of oil at stable prices," Ms. Verstandig said.

"The progress we have witnessed in the peace process, too, will contribute to the preservation of stability in the Gulf and will help erase the need of the past to balance our cooperation with Israel and with the Gulf Arab states against each other," she said.

Following is the text of Ms. Verstandig's address:

I appreciate very much the opportunity to come speak to you today on a subject which is of abiding interest to all of us — the geopolitical situation in the Gulf. On Feb. 12, 1945, King Abdul Aziz, Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, boarded a U.S. navy destroyer, the USS Murphy, and pitched his tent on the deck, where he sheltered with 48 advisors and seven sheep for the short trip from Jeddah to the Great Bitter Lake and his secret rendezvous with President Roosevelt.

There is no convincing evidence that Saddam Hussein's regime is prepared to meet this standard. Iraq is not in full compliance with any of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. It continues to reject elements of U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 which ended fighting in the Gulf war, such as recognising Kuwait's borders. With such a record, Iraq's calls for negotiations in end international sanctions are at best premature.

We strongly support the continued territorial integrity and unity of Iraq. We support the Iraqi National Congress in its efforts to unify and strengthen the Iraqi opposition, and contribute to the process of bringing about a democratic, pluralistic government in Iraq which can live at peace with its neighbours and its own people. In sum, we are determined that the will of the international community, as expressed in U.N. Security Council resolutions, be enforced to ensure that Iraq can never again threaten its neighbours or pose a threat to peace.

Let me reiterate that the U.S. bears no ill will towards the Iraqi people. Saddam Hussein's brutal treatment of Iraq's civilian population is a matter of record. The Iraqi government could alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people by ceasing its repression, especially in the north against the Kurds and in the south against the Shiites, and by taking advantage of U.N. Security Council resolutions 706 and 712, which allow Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil under U.N. control to purchase food, medicine and other humanitarian goods.

As for Iran, we have deep and serious concerns about its behaviour in five areas:

— its quest for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and the means for their delivery;

— the continued involvement of the Iranian govern-

ment in terrorism and assassination worldwide;

— its support for violent opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace process;

— Iran's threats and subversive activities against its neighbours; and

— its dismal human rights record at home.

Our policy is not aimed at changing the Iranian government, but at inducing Iran to change its behaviour in these areas. We seek increased international economic pressure to persuade Iran that it cannot expect to enjoy normal state to state relations so long as it violates basic standards of international behaviour. This means working with other countries to deprive Iran access to technology and other means by which it can facilitate the pursuit of policies of destabilisation, terrorism, and the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, we have made clear that we do not seek the overthrow of the Iranian regime. We have made clear that we are prepared to enter into dialogue with authorised representatives of the Iranian government to discuss the differences between us.

— we do not view Islam as the next "ism" confronting the West or threatening world peace.

— we part company with those — whether their message is religious or secular — who practice terrorism, oppress minorities, preach intolerance, violate human rights, or pursue their political goals through violence.

— we do not seek a "made in America" model for other societies, but we are proud of our traditions and values of which we support those in the region who seek to expand both political participation and respect for human rights.

— finally, we are wary of those who would use the democratic process to come to power, only to destroy that very process in order to retain power and political dominance.

The Gulf is no exception to our general interest in supporting democratisation and human rights. We have been clear in our discussions with the leaders of the Gulf states in stating our view that increased popular participation in government would enhance, not diminish, regional and internal stability and would contribute to the success of our cooperative efforts. We have welcomed the steps, albeit tentative so far, to broaden that participation throughout the Gulf, whether it is the elections in Kuwait or the development of advisory councils in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain.

We look forward to continued progress along these lines.

**friends in the area, that continued measures aimed at improving GCC cooperation form an important component of enhanced deterrence for the region.**

**Human rights, democracy and Islam**

As a final element of our framework, I would like to say a few words about the connection we see between human rights, democracy and Islam on one hand and the implications for U.S. policy, security and stability in the region on the other hand. While the issue of political Islam is highly complex and varies considerably in each country, the U.S. approach to the phenomenon points:

— we do not view Islam as the next "ism" confronting the West or threatening world peace.

— we part company with those — whether their message is religious or secular — who practice terrorism, oppress minorities, preach intolerance, violate human rights, or pursue their political goals through violence.

— we do not seek a "made in America" model for other societies, but we are proud of our traditions and values of which we support those in the region who seek to expand both political participation and respect for human rights.

— finally, we are wary of those who would use the democratic process to come to power, only to destroy that very process in order to retain power and political dominance.

The western powers, along with Pyongyang's neighbours South Korea and Japan, also do not want to panic the isolated and jumpy North Korean leadership into some potentially catastrophic military move. North Korea has over one million men under arms.

But, the softly-softly approach also reflects the outside world's lack of options, officials say.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said in a recent interview that beyond diplomacy "the alternatives... become very unattractive."

Sanctions, he told the newspaper USA Today, could be ineffective as North Korea did not depend to a great extent on imports. Cutting off energy imports, on which Pyongyang does depend, would require the collaboration of China.

"The alternative beyond

— As for military actions such as air strikes, the main fear is that they could trigger a massive invasion of South Korea. Western experts say that despite outdated equipment the north could attack the south with 750,000 troops in one to two days.

Western perplexity over North Korea is well exemplified by the fact that no one is sure whether Pyongyang has developed a nuclear weapon or not, although many experts believe it now has enough plutonium to do so.

Nor is there agreement over why North Korea — which denies having nuclear weapons — would want them anyway.

The main theories are that they would be an insurance policy against the collapse of the regime and enforced reunification with the south, or that the programme is a bargaining chip to be given up in return for concessions such as U.S. recognition.

"We are not prepared to bank on the second of those alternatives," one western diplomat said.

### West, with few options, plays it long with N. Korea

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuter

LONDON — With very few military or economic cards in its hands, the West has decided to play it long with North Korea in a bid to defuse the dangerous dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

Like police faced with an armed hijacker, the United States and its allies are still awaiting from the sanctions imposed two years ago on rump Yugoslavia.

This approach, they believe, offers the best hope of persuading North Korea to resume cooperating with U.N. inspectors who fear the country's Stalinist government may be developing nuclear weapons.

But, diplomats say, the crisis underlines the difficulties of dealing with an authoritarian regime that appears both unconcerned about world opinion and desperate to fend off political and economic collapse.

The crisis, simmering for three years, came back to the boil this month when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said its inspectors had been barred from taking samples at a key nuclear site and could not give North Korea a clean bill of health.

The report led to the cancelling of U.S.-North Korean talks, threats of war from Pyongyang, the alerting of armed forces in both Koreas, the dispatch of U.S. Patriot missiles to South Korea, and the referral of the matter to the United Nations.

But, despite talk in the West of imposing economic sanctions on North Korea, a Security Council resolution expected this week will confine itself to urging Pyongyang to permit unrestricted inspections.

It is likely to give North Korea a month to comply before further U.N. action is contemplated, diplomats say.

In part, the caution is to avoid alienating China, a long-standing friend of North Korea. Beijing has said it is against punitive measures but has not specifically stated that it would use its Security Council veto to block sanctions.

The western powers, along with Pyongyang's neighbours South Korea and Japan, also do not want to panic the isolated and jumpy North Korean leadership into some potentially catastrophic military move. North Korea has over one million men under arms.

But, the softly-softly approach also reflects the outside world's lack of options, officials say.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said in a recent interview that beyond diplomacy "the alternatives... become very unattractive."

Sanctions, he told the newspaper USA Today, could be ineffective as North Korea did not depend to a great extent on imports. Cutting off energy imports, on which Pyongyang does depend, would require the collaboration of China.

"The alternative beyond

— As for military actions such as air strikes, the main fear is that they could trigger a massive invasion of South Korea. Western experts say that despite outdated equipment the north could attack the south with 750,000 troops in one to two days.

Western perplexity over North Korea is well exemplified by the fact that no one is sure whether Pyongyang has developed a nuclear weapon or not, although many experts believe it now has enough plutonium to do so.

Nor is there agreement over why North Korea — which denies having nuclear weapons — would want them anyway.

The main theories are that they would be an insurance policy against the collapse of the regime and enforced reunification with the south, or that the programme is a bargaining chip to be given up in return for concessions such as U.S. recognition.

"We are not prepared to bank on the second of those alternatives," one western diplomat said.

### LETTERS

#### Clear position

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to clarify what I said at the Third Arab Strategic Conference organised by the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies. In saying that "if Israel is such a state in the Arab World?" I was responding sarcastically to a speaker's comment that Arabs in Israel — which the scholar of political freedom from Arabs living under the rule of current Arab regimes. My indignant response was merely to take the speaker's comment to its conclusion and to point out that to remedy the political conditions in our countries we do not need occupation armies (which in many Arab countries many died to get rid of) but to work on modifying our regimes, and citizens, many of whom enjoy de facto but not de jure political and other rights.

Covering the conference, Suhaib Obeidat in her article "Experts debate 'responsibility' for dismal state of Arab affairs" (Jordan Times, March 27, 1994) has quoted me without pointing to the context in which it was stated makes me apprehensive that the statement may be used in a context Middle East," and that a scholar of the Middle East applauds it" on the Arab region. Because I firmly maintain my views stated above, I would like my position to be clarified.

Abla Amawi, Ph.D.  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

## • Israelis kill 1, wound 60

(Continued from page 1)

leaflets. Violence flared in Jabaliya, scene of Monday's killings, when the army tried to stop Palestinians defying the curfew to attend the funerals of the six. Border guards and soldiers were beaten back by a hail of stones, Palestinians said.

Two Palestinians meanwhile attacked an Israeli with an axe, seriously wounding him on a building site at Petah Tikva, in the suburbs of Tel Aviv, police said.

The latest deaths brought to 1,257 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis since the start of the intifada in December 1987, according to an AFP toll based on Palestinian figures.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the army's killing of six Fatah men was a "very sad event."

"The (soldiers) feared it was an attempt to ambush them, so they took the action that they did. The (troops) had no sinister intentions. It was a very sad event," Mr. Peres told reporters.

An Israeli official who demanded anonymity said the shooting of the Fatah Hawks in Gaza was a "worse case scenario" because they were not on Israel's wanted list and they belonged to Mr. Arafat's own Fatah faction. He said there were now fears that the PLO would ask new demands and slow down negotiations.

The Palestinians killed Monday night were distributing leaflets about a local dispute in Jabaliya in which they threatened to take action against Palestinian activists who harassed people in the name of Fatah.

The shootout occurred at one of the small storefronts that double as gas stations and video markets in the densely populated Gaza Strip.

About 12 Palestinians wearing camouflage fatigues, their heads wrapped in headbands, pulled up to the shop in two cars and demanded a car to

block the road, said Mahmud Wadi, 25, who handed over his vehicle.

About seven Israeli undercover troops in two cars opened fire, killing four men instantly, Mr. Wadi said. One Hawk, a woman bystander and a boy riding a bicycle nearby were also wounded, eyewitnesses said.

Two Palestinians were shot at a point-blank range, witnesses said.

"One of the fugitives was running away when an Israeli soldier caught up with him, stood on his feet, pulled his head back by the hair and pumped at least three bullets right into his head," Mr. Wadi said.

Garage owner Mohammad Abu Aida, 25, said another man lay bleeding on the ground when an Israeli soldier walked up and shot him in the head.

Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, the housing minister and a retired army general, defended the soldiers, saying the Fatah Hawks were armed and in uniform and the soldiers could not tell if they were Islamic fundamentalists.

"I don't think there's a reason for Fatah people to run around at night in tiger uniforms and guns," he said. "I think the instinctive and necessary thing for soldiers to do is open fire."

Leaflets by Hamas and left-wing factions opposed the deployment of Palestinian police in Hebron. The measure had been demanded by the PLO in the wake of the massacre, and final details on such a deployment were expected to be worked out in Cairo talks Tuesday.

Wall slogans signed by local Fatah supporters called for armed struggle. "No peace after today," declared one in Hebron.

Fatah supporters vowed to attack Israeli soldiers in reprisal for the killing of the Fatah Hawks, saying the Fatah Hawks were deliberately targeted by soldiers.

## Jordan condemns Israeli violence

(Continued from page 1)

nearly 20 Palestinians during a protest against Israeli seizures of Arab lands.

"The day reminds us of the arbitrary and inhuman means of the Israeli authorities which are not conducive to achieving peace in the region," Dr. Anani said. "We would like to commemorate Land Day to confirm Jordan's belief that peace will never prevail in the region unless a just and comprehensive solution is achieved and Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories."

Dr. Anani said the Israeli violence against Palestinians should also be seen together with "the pressures that Jordan

is also exposed to."

The net picture that emerges, he said, "is that there is a clear-cut intention to undermine the Arab role in pursuing a just and comprehensive peace."

The Jordanian cabinet denounces the continued spilling of blood in the occupied territories. We believe that we should pursue peace until the Palestinians achieve their full legitimate rights on their own soil and land."

Dr. Anani also warned Israel. "We want to make our position clear that the cause of peace cannot be reflected by more killings or sending armed soldiers to kill innocent civilians," he said.

## PLO fighting to retain legitimacy

(Continued from page 1)

have proved to pose a serious obstacle to any tangible changes on the ground that could ease Israeli control — let alone pave the way for smooth transfer to a Palestinian authority.

The most immediately felt implication in the West Bank and Gaza was the absence of any confidence-building measures on the part of the Israelis which could have been crucial to the creation of a conducive atmosphere to peace.

For two years before the signing of the DOP, Palestinian negotiators have struggled in Washington to get Israel to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention, or at least to adopt a number of measures based on international law stipulating protection of people under occupation.

The DOP had no reference to the Geneva convention or any kind of Israeli commitment to halt its restrictive measures, that essentially conflicts with the Geneva conventions.

Consequently, as negotiations were going on, Israel had a relatively free hand imposing restrictions on the movement of people across the West Bank and Gaza, passes were still needed for men under forty to enter East Jerusalem, the main entrances to the refugee camps were blocked and Israeli soldiers practically controlled life in the squalid shanty-towns through their look-out posts — and all other forms of human rights violations continued.

The number one issue for people under occupation, which they saw as an indicator of the seriousness of the process, was the release of Palestinian prisoners.

But as talks proceeded,

what should have been prerequisite steps for building a constituency for peace; became negotiating bargaining chips that Israel effectively used in Cairo and Taba.

By Feb. 25, Israel had only agreed to release a certain category of prisoners — mainly the ones whose terms were about to end but refused to release prisoners who belong to groups that oppose the DOP.

On the eve of massacre, tension was already high in both Hebron and Gaza, which were placed under night curfew, starting from seven p.m. and for Palestinian activists that situation was on the verge of explosion, especially if the leadership accepted the Israeli distinction between prisoners who support the DOP and those in the opposition.

Hamas in particular was becoming more active in Hebron, and was rapidly gaining ground as Palestinians there were contrasting the Islamic Resistance Movement against the Israeli occupation with the apparent compromising PLO position.

The (Feb. 5) Cairo agreement had only aggravated an already volatile situation. Again the PLO leadership seemed to accept the Israeli concept and definition of security without easing its control or practices.

The argument in Tunis, in support of "progress" achieved at the talks, was an acknowledgement that the agreement was lacking but that the priority was to accelerate the implementation of the DOP.

Few officials in Tunis now use this argument to defend the recent tentative agreement. Mr. Arafat does not seem to have the support of some of his closest aides who appear to be distancing themselves from his decisions.



Palestinians taking shelter behind a barricade throw stones at Israeli soldiers during a mounting held Tuesday for six Palestinians shot dead (AFP photo)

## Jordan seeks speedy solution

(Continued from page 1)

Arab-Israeli peace process and the effects of the international sanctions imposed against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 were two separate issues.

"We believe that the issue of Aqaba cannot be fully disassociated from the peace process," he said. "After all, the whole peace process was basically generated after the Gulf war. Therefore, to say that there is no link is not a view that is necessarily shared by Jordan."

Dr. Anani said a recent escalation of the interceptions and inspection procedures adopted by the American-led warships patrolling the Red Sea could not be seen as a form of indirect pressure on Jordan to accept an Israeli demand that the Kingdom sign a peace agreement and then negotiate the terms of the accord.

"Jordan is not going to succumb to pressures of this kind," the minister said. "We want the peace process to pursue a rational path... Jordan does not need to give any further evidence to its positive attitude and its important and key role in the peace process itself."

The Jordanian position that the Kingdom's participation in the peace process hinged on a satisfactory end to its economic losses resulting from the enforcement of the sanctions did not come out of a vacuum, the minister said. He pointed out that Jordan had proposed moving inspection of Aqaba-bound ships from the Tiran Straits to the port of Aqaba but was disappointed that the proposal was not given the proper speed and attention it deserved.

The Jordanian proposal, presented during King Hussein's visit to the U.S. and meeting with President Bill Clinton at the White House in January, calls for the stationing of an independent international agency at Aqaba to check all incoming and outgoing cargo for violations of the sanctions against Iraq.

Dr. Anani suggested that Llyods Register of London could be the "neutral third party" which could undertake

this task. Llyods Register is known for its experience in inspecting international cargo upon the request of consignors and consignees to check whether consignments meet with the required technical and other specifications.

The proposal was "relatively well received" by U.S. administration officials and that Jordan had replied to some of the queries raised by Washington over the implementation of the proposal, Dr. Anani said.

Shipping agents said the 13,000-tonne Skyman was carrying 3,000 tonnes of general cargo for the Jordanian market.

The denial of entry to the vessel was "another example of how this whole operation is singling out Jordan as a country which is being inspected and its economy is being negatively influenced by this modus operandi," Dr. Anani said.

The information minister welcomed a statement by U.S. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry that the Jordanian proposal was under study and said Jordan hoped that "this matter will be very soon resolved."

"If that happens, then we think it would iron out a major problem which is not only affecting the Jordanian economy but also inflaming popular response to the whole situation," Dr. Anani said.

The minister was referring to a call issued by Parliament last week for the government to refuse to return to peace talks with Israel until the siege of Aqaba is lifted and the lifting is formally announced at the Security Council.

Dr. Anani said the Jordanian call for an end to the "modus operandi" of inspecting Aqaba-bound vessels was not linked to the overall sanctions against Iraq although Jordan strongly felt that the situation of the Iraqi people was worsening due to lack of enough food and medicine.

Dr. Anani also reiterated that Jordan would not accept the stationing of international forces in its territory since such a move... will be in violation of Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Asked whether Jordan would attend an April 7 round of multilateral talks on the environment, which is part of the Middle East process, Dr. Anani said: "We hope that the concerned parties will arrive at a speedy decision to solve the problem" of the siege of Aqaba.

## Media magnate wins Italian polls

(Continued from page 1)

economist Fausto Mennella. Umerto Bossi, abrasive leader of the Northern League, insisted Mr. Berlusconi's vast business interests disqualified him from becoming prime minister.

He also struck out at the National Alliance, whose performance appeared to have

made it Italy's third biggest party with 13.5 per cent of votes.

Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia polled 21 per cent and Mr. Occhetto's ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) 20.4, according to returns for a proportional section of the lower house vote.

No percentages were available for individual alliance

members in the more important constituency voting.

It would be difficult for Mr. Berlusconi to form a cohesive government without the league, which polled 8.4 per cent.

"We are the political force which brought down the old regime," the gravel-voiced Bossi declared.

Things came to a head-on clash when an Aqaba-bound ship was inspected four times

## Balawi briefs Majali, says no dispute

(Continued from page 1)

Jordanians, Palestinians, Muslims and Christians..."

It was clear from Mr. Balawi's comments to reporters after the meeting that the PLO was anxious to avert any dispute with Jordan. Jordan-PLO differences were "something of the past" he said, adding "Jordanians and Palestinians share the same objectives and goals and we are working together to achieve that."

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani, one of the officials who met on Tuesday with Mr. Balawi, who was sent there by Chairman Yasser Arafat, agreed with Mr. Balawi that there was no "fundamental rift" with the PLO.

"In essence the difference is not a political one because what is demanded first and foremost is guaranteeing the Arab rights in Jerusalem," Dr. Anani said.

Dr. Anani told reporters that Mr. Balawi had brought a "positive approach" in the sense that he reaffirmed that "Jordanian-Palestinian relations are strong and should remain strong and should not be negatively affected by a difference here or a difference there."

Dr. Anani said Jordan's foremost concern in the context of Jerusalem was to defend the Arab rights to the Holy City. "Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation should not differ over Jerusalem because we have a right in Jerusalem and we should restore them," Dr. Anani said.

"Differences in opinion sometimes lead to exaggerated political implications if those differences are overread," Dr. Anani said, emphasising the need for coordinating Jordanian and Palestinian stands towards Jerusalem, "an issue that concerns the Arabs,

responsibility for containing the Palestinians."

Four policemen failed to turn up for guard duty at the mosque on the morning of the massacre, and army officers have said their presence may have prevented the killing.

Edelstein, who lives in a settlement adjacent to Kiryat Arba, was asked about a picture of Goldstein that he posted on his kitchen wall after the massacre, captioned with the acronym for the Hebrew phrase, "God will avenge his blood." Goldstein was beaten to death by worshippers.

Edelstein, who acknowledged friendly relations with Goldstein, said the acronym should be read "God will avenge their blood," and referred to all victims of violence, Jewish and Arab.

He said the picture was an attempt to help his children reconcile their earlier image of Goldstein as a healer and "father figure" with the killer. He has since taken the photo down, he said.

Also Tuesday, Police Commissioner Rafi Peled testified that one of police's main functions in the occupied lands was to contain the settlers, as opposed to the army, which is

a show of force, rather than a real deterrent.

Mr. Peled denied that the police were lax on Jews.

Tuesday, "Jerusalem is the capital of the independent state of Palestine," be told reporters. "At the same time it is also an issue of concern for Arabs, Muslims as well as Christians."

The PLO official looked visibly uncomfortable answering repeated questions from journalists focusing on the theme of Jerusalem and the restoration of holy shrines there.

The question of restoring holy shrines in Jerusalem was raised when last week's PLO statement specifically referred to Saudi Arabia's "contribution to repairing and maintaining" them but did not contain any reference to Jordan, which continues to be the guardian of the Muslim shrines in the Holy City despite its severance of legal and administrative links with the occupied territories in 1967.

Asked what the PLO's stand was towards the restoration of holy sites, Mr. Balawi skirted a direct answer and said: "Any development of any sites in the occupied territories is not different from developing any sites elsewhere in Palestine or in Jordan... Karak, Maan, Qalqilya, Gaza or Nablus..."

Answering other questions, Mr. Balawi said he briefed the Jordanian government on the status of negotiations with Israel "following the massacre in Hebron and the adoption of U.N. Security Council Resolution 904."

He stressed that the talks that the PLO launched with Israel after Resolution 904 was adopted were not a continuation of the negotiations on self-rule as envisaged in the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord but covered only "security arrangement for the Palestinians living under occupation."

If these talks produced a satisfactory arrangement, he said, the PLO would resume the self-rule negotiations.

## Ciller urges right to unite

(Continued from page 1)

under pressure in a volatile market.

"Despite these interest rates, the dollar is in an upward trend," one banker said. "Markets want to see Ciller's economic package, but there is still a demand for dollars."

The Muslim fundamentalist Welfare Party meanwhile declared its election victory in the capital of Ankara after taking the mayorship of the country's largest city, Istanbul.

The victories by the party in more than 22 mayoral races countered the nationwide support in other races for the party of Ms. Ciller, who supports increasing ties with Europe and other modernisation plans.

The Welfare Party is strongly anti-Israel and opposed Turkey's bid for membership in the European Union. Many women are also afraid Welfare could try to push for Islamic rules concerning dress and behaviour.

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## VACANCY

A newly established exporters association is seeking to fill the position of  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## Japan faces tough task to deliver on trade package

TOKYO (R) — Japan Tuesday unveiled a package of measures to boost the economy, open markets and cut its huge trade surplus but some analysts said it lacked new initiatives to reopen stalled trade talks with Washington.

"The package is full of abstract words," Fuji Research Institute chief economist Masaru Takagi said. "The government should set more specific goals for boosting domestic demand."

Tokyo promised to boost domestic demand by taking "necessary fiscal and monetary steps," the phrase it has used to allay U.S. criticism and combat the recession in recent years, as well as to take steps improving access to specific markets.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa called President Bill Clinton earlier to give him a preview of its contents and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata handed a thick copy of the package to Ambassador Walter Mondale.

"I hope this maximum effort by Japan will help smooth U.S.-Japan ties and reopen the economic framework talks," Mr. Hosokawa was quoted by chief cabinet secretary Masayoshi Takemura as telling Mr. Clinton.

Tokyo says the package was the best one possible for now while Washington has not yet given any major response.

But currency dealers in Asia pounced the dollar to 103.50 yen from Monday's 104.05 yen close in New York on expectations that the United States would react coolly.

While the package was short on details and specific targets, such items would be addressed

in a follow-up package to be announced before Mr. Hosokawa meets Mr. Clinton in July at the Naples summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations, Mr. Takemura told reporters.

The government has put off the bottom line for core issues until June — how to top up public works spending and finance continued income tax cuts," said Atsushi Miyawaki, senior economist at Japan Research.

The package acknowledged U.S. suggestions by promising to put more cash into a 10-year programme for public works projects. The programme, which started in 1991/2, at present calls for spending of 430 trillion yen (\$4.13 million).

The amount of new money will be decided by June.

Japan also nodded to U.S. pressure and promised continued income tax cuts to spur consumer spending. A decision will be made by year-end.

But experts see difficulties ahead.

"A tax overhaul will be impossible under the current coalition," said Minoru Morita, a leading political commentator. "The Socialist Party will never say yes to a (indirect) tax hike."

In February, Mr. Hosokawa failed to force through a higher consumption tax as a means of financing permanent income tax cuts. He faced strong opposition from the Socialists, the biggest partner in the ruling coalition.

Parties in the coalition plan to work out guidelines for a drastic reform by end-June and final accord by the end of 1994. Other points in Tuesday's package were:

## Yeltsin believes new import taxes need correction

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has voiced concern about possible negative effects of new Russian import taxes on a wide range of goods including white sugar and he lieys they should be corrected, ITAR-TASS said Tuesday.

The official news agency said Mr. Yeltsin, at a meeting with the head of the upper chamber of parliament, Vladimir Shumeiko, questioned the taxes which went into effect on March 15.

TASS quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying he had discussed the tax issue with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and that "they shared the opinion about the need for corrections ... without dropping the principle of reasonable protectionism." The agency gave no further details.

The levies, including a 20 per cent tax on imported white sugar and 10 per cent on margarine and some vegetable oils, came under fire from the influential mayors of big importing cities such as Moscow, St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg. The Moscow region imports

more than 500,000 tonnes of white sugar annually.

Critics say the tariffs, introduced after months of debate within the government and backed by top agriculture officials, will boost inflation and could lead to social unrest.

Big Russian sweet producers say the sugar tax will push up prices and may force some import contracts to be canceled.

But agriculture officials defend the taxes, saying they will help curb food imports and save badly needed hard currency.

Sugar industry bosses say the white sugar import tax will help protect Russian refineries which have been hit by a flurry of cheaper imports last year, but sugar traders say the tariff is not high enough to make raw sugar business attractive.

Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Zaveryukha, who had lobbied hard for import duties to protect domestic producers, has said that the taxes are temporary and will run until Sept. 1 after which they can be altered if necessary.

## Malaysia scraps export duty on crude palm oil

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia, the biggest producer and exporter of palm oil, is abolishing export duties on crude palm oil (CPO) to gain a niche in large foreign palm oil markets, it was announced here Tuesday.

"It's plain marketing strategy to gain a stronger foothold in our (foreign) markets," Primary Industries Minister Lim Keng Yaik told a press conference.

The duty exemption will be granted on a case-by-case basis to Malaysian companies that have constructed palm oil refineries abroad, he said.

Malaysia's export duty on CPO is pegged to the price of palm oil, based on a complex formula. Duty is, however, waived if the price falls below 650 ringgit (\$360) per tonne.

Export duty based on the current price of palm oil — about 1,050 ringgit (\$412) per tonne — would fall to 80 ringgit (\$32), official said.

Malaysia has palm oil refineries in China, the United States, Mexico and Egypt, and is planning facilities in Pakistan, Iran, Tanzania and Turkey.

Mr. Lim said the export duty exemption would also encourage more Malaysians to set up refineries abroad, as local refineries were over-loaded.

Malaysian refineries have an installed capacity of 10 million tonnes, but supply is limited to only about eight million tonnes, he said, adding that duty exemption could help bring about a "shake-out" of local refineries.

Malaysia researchers say that Indonesia, with its rapid growth in cultivation and abundant labour supply, could overtake Malaysia to become the

## Business software publishers lose billions to piracy

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bad news for software publishers is that the industry lost \$7.4 billion worldwide in 1993 from business software being pirated. The good news is the industry is losing less money to piracy than it did in 1992.

This information, released Monday, will be contained in a study the Software Publishers Association plans to issue in June. The association represents 1,100 software publishers in the United States and abroad.

The industry appears to be making inroads in combating piracy on a global front. Revenues lost to piracy decreased 23.7 per cent in 1993 from 1992. In 1992, total revenues lost to piracy were \$9.7 billion.

Still, last year's \$7.4 billion loss to piracy is sizeable, eclipsing, in some cases, revenues from sales. For instance, in 1993 \$6.3 billion was made in software sales in North America, said the association's spokeswoman Terri Childs.

"To put our industry's losses in perspective, the United States' sales of recorded music totalled \$9 billion in 1992," said the association's research director David Tremblay.

The most frequent forms of piracy are when a company buys one programme and makes it available through a network of computers, copies the programme or passes the programme around to others, Ms. Childs said.

The association has had programmes in place — like its anti-piracy hotline — to fight such theft for years.

Last year alone the association reported 245 audits or lawsuits against companies. None went to court. Through settlements, the association last year received \$3 million, which was given to member companies.

The piracy losses in the upcoming report account only for business software, such as spreadsheets, electronic mail, accounting and data base programmes. It does not include entertainment software, such as video games.

The upcoming report tracks software products made by domestic and foreign companies. Because U.S. companies produce the bulk of software for personal computers, they are the hardest hit, Ms. Childs said.

The U.S. had the largest dollar loss of \$1.57 billion from piracy in 1993, followed by Japan with \$650 million and France with \$435 million, the association said.

Piracy is growing at the highest rate in India and Pakistan with a 95 per cent rate, followed by Korea and Brazil, with 89 per cent and Malaysia with 88 per cent, according to the association.

The association said it plans to expand anti-piracy activities in the Far East, Latin America and Europe.

**Jordan Times**  
Tel: 667171

## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## Indian car makers lament high price tags

BOMBAY (AFP) — Indian auto makers, having seen off a two-year recession, wish their assembly lines could turn out an affordable car for customers scared off by expensive show-room price-tags.

But production costs are so high, and the infrastructure so inadequate, that it is impossible to make a car for the "common man" at volumes big enough to make it profitable industry spokesmen say.

The cheapest, no-frills car made in India costs at least 180,000 rupees (\$6,000), the equivalent of three years' salary for a modestly-paid executive, said Sudhakar Shah of the Association of Indian Auto Manufacturers.

"In the Indian family budget, cars are still very expensive," lamented Mr. Shah, tracing the reason to the high cost of credit, formidable taxes and costly components.

Taxes make up 64 per cent of the show-room price of a car, putting it beyond the reach of all but the affluent. Import tariffs on vehicles are 100 per cent.

The leaders, meeting at the first plenary session of the conference, decided to approach members of the G-7 separately and canvas for talks with the poorer nations, Mr. Mukherjee said.

The G-15 will be dealing with issues such as Western quotas for Third World textile exports, technology transfers, and keeping open the markets of richer nations despite the widening of the European Union and the creation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Delegates also suggested that a revamping of the G-15's function was in order to make it more efficient.

"The system of working has to change," Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Luiz Nunes told the Associated Press.

current growth rate.

As part of its 1991 liberal industrial policy, the Indian government lifted tough licensing controls on the automobile industry.

Auto makers no longer need government permission to expand and their capacity. New manufacturers no longer need to wait interminably for a government licence to set up an assembly line.

"Technically, the field is open now, anybody can enter," said Mr. Shah.

But the entry of new manufacturers is restricted by the high initial investment needed to set up a plant — the rupee equivalent of nearly \$350 million, Mr. Shah said.

No significant new investments have been made in automobiles by Indian entrepreneurs and the field continues to be dominated by such established names as Maruti Udyog, Premier Automobiles, Hindustan Motors and Tata Engineering.

While fast growth is still distant, the industry has lifted itself out of a recession with the help of tax concessions and cuts in interest rates, though small, announced last year.

Total vehicular sales in fiscal 1993-94 ending March 31 are projected at 2.17 million, up from 1.83 million in the previous year.

Exports have picked up as well, projected to increase by 8,000 vehicles to 62,000 in the year to March.

Not all segments of the industry have performed well. Sales of medium and heavy vehicles have not kept pace with the increase in sales of passenger cars, light commercial vehicles and two-wheelers.

The low sales' volume is seen as an obstacle to foreign makers.

However, some of them, such as General Motors, Rover, Peugeot and Benz, have formed technology tie-ups with Indian manufacturers with an eye to the future.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 30, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The morning pulls together well but the afternoon finds you with some limitations that require a lot of thought but conditions trend upward as the Moon conjoins Pluto and objectives can be gained.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Don't be taken in by some situations that look good but may be deceptive and could cause you a great loss in time and money. Be wise.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) The situation at home could be deceiving, but say little now and plan how to handle problems wisely for peacefulness there. You can profit from this.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You are able to engage in new outlets that could produce added income in the future. State your aims clearly to associates who could help.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) You have to use much care in handling money at this time if you wish to avoid possible heavy losses in any financial endeavour.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You make think you can do more than you actually can, so be more practical and logical. Use your fine intuitive faculties now.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) A private matter is not just what it seems to be, so check.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You have to use much care in handling money at this time if you wish to avoid possible heavy losses in any financial endeavour.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Obtain the data you need from the right sources. Then look into new avenues of expression that can add to your income.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get busy and remove whatever is not suitable in your environment. Handle all the tasks ahead of you in a positive fashion so you will succeed.

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arkinson

Uncramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**SABI**

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**LIXEE**

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**FRYLUR**

© 1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**GAYNIP**

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: **\_\_\_\_\_** - **\_\_\_\_\_**

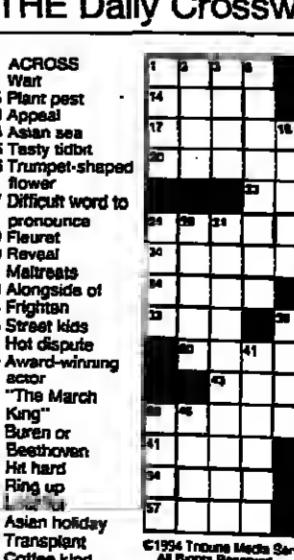
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's **Jumble**: GIVEN RURAL AVENUE POPLAR

Answer: They trusted the carpenter because he seemed — ON THE "LEVEL".

## THE Daily Crossword

by Richard Thomas



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**FAIRIES** **SHARIN** **ALIAS** **AMOUR**

**IRENE** **EMIL** **GUARD** **AMOUR**

**SMART** **TRAIL** **GUARD** **AMOUR**

<

# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1994

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
BROKERAGE CENTER - JORDAN - JORDANIAN						
TELEPHONE: 06/3170 / 06/3170						
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST						
MARKET SECTION						
29/03/1994						
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED	PREV.	OPENING	CLOSING	PRICE	
	2D	WEEK	PRICE	PRICE	PRICE	
JORDAN BANK	21,700	100,000	180,000	188,500		
JORDAN BOSTON BANK	35,920	7,800	4,800	4,800		
JORDAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT BANK	5,824	4,800	4,800	4,800		
JORDAN EMBASSY BANK	25,720	2,170	2,170	2,170		
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	13,795	2,700	2,700	2,700		
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK/IRAN	22,215	2,170	2,330	3,160		
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK/IRAN	2,947	4,520	4,520	2,250		
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK/IRAN	3,720	4,520	4,520	4,520		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL BANK	9,729	4,400	4,400	4,400		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL BANK	20,727	2,930	2,930	2,930		
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL BANK	9,120	3,940	3,940	2,460		
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	12,756	2,940	2,730	2,230		
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL SPINNING LINES	2,988	4,400	4,400	4,360		
JORDAN PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	336	0,710	0,710	2,300		
JORDAN PAPER FOUNDATION / AL-A'AM	2,988	4,400	4,400	4,360		
JORDAN PETROLEUM GROUP, REFINERY & PETROCHEMICALS	5,413	1,140	1,140	1,140		
JORDAN PETROLEUM GROUP, REFINERY & PETROCHEMICALS	12,700	21,400	21,400	21,270		
JORDAN PETROLEUM GROUP, REFINERY & PETROCHEMICALS	17,163	2,150	1,170	2,200		
JORDAN PETROLEUM GROUP, REFINERY & PETROCHEMICALS	1,447	1,660	1,660	1,660		
JORDAN PETROLEUM GROUP, REFINERY & PETROCHEMICALS	5,020	2,000	2,000	2,010		
JORDAN PETROLEUM GROUP, REFINERY & PETROCHEMICALS	1,514	6,880	6,880	6,860		
JORDAN PETROLEUM GROUP, REFINERY & PETROCHEMICALS	59,043	7,930	12,000	13,900		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICALS	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,220		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICALS	1,452	2,720	2,720	2,720		
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	1,159	0,370	0,350	0,350		
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	2,220	2,220	2,220	2,220		
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	5,083	2,220	2,220	2,220		
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	21,728	9,400	9,400	9,400		
JORDAN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & TRADING	9,563	6,600	6,600	6,620		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,279	2,400	2,400	2,400		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,720	7,700	7,700	7,400		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	14,768	2,380	2,380	2,380		
JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	240	2,400	2,400	2,400		
GRAND TOTAL	788,420					
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	117,020					
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	32,8013					

## S. Korean economy registers 5.6 per cent growth in 1993

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's economy grew by 5.6 per cent in real terms in 1993, a performance that signals an economic recovery, the Bank of Korea said.

Bank officials said the 1993 growth shows the economy is coming out of its recent slump. After years of high growth, the South Korean economy expanded only five per cent in 1992, its lowest rate in 12 years.

Exports, the engine of past economic growth, were sluggish for much of 1993, restricting economic expansion to an annual rate of 3.9 per cent during the first quarter and 4.8 per cent in the second quarter.

But exports picked up in the latter part of 1993, bringing growth to 6.8 per cent to the third quarter and 6.4 per cent in the final quarter, bank officials said.

Exports slowed in the first half because of falling interna-

tional competitiveness in labour-intensive industries such as shoes, textiles and clothing, the central bank said. In the latter half, there was an increase in remittances from service exports, especially overseas construction work and transportation fees, bank officials said.

The economic recovery that began in the final months of last year continued into 1994, and officials said they were hopeful that this year's growth could reach seven per cent, higher than the 6.3 per cent originally forecast.

"The economy seems to have begun recovering and expanding, and if the trend continues, the growth rate for this year will be slightly higher than we expected," said chief bank researcher Kim Si-Dam.

In 1993, South Korea's per capita gross national product (GNP) was estimated at

\$7,466, up from \$7,007 in the previous year, the central bank said. It predicted that this year's per capita GNP would hit the \$8,000 level.

A steady increase in exports and modest growth in the domestic service and construction sectors led the 1993 economic recovery, officials said. But doubts remain about "quality of the growth," as the two vital sectors of manufacturing and facility investment were sluggish, they said.

The agricultural and fishery sectors was hit hard by unusually cold weather that affected most of East Asia, and contracted by 2.4 per cent last year, the officials said.

"The service sector growth rate rose from 6.9 per cent in 1992 to 7.8 per cent last year, while the construction sector grew by 5.3 per cent, helped by government deregulation, they said.

## Bahrain foreign trade deficit narrows in 1993

MANAMA (R) — A surge in non-oil exports and lower imports have helped narrow Bahrain's foreign trade deficit in 1993 despite a drop in oil exports, official figures have shown.

The deficit narrowed to 51 million dinars (\$135 million) in 1993 from 274 million (\$727 million) in 1992.

Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) figures showed it exported oil and non-oil goods worth 1.387 billion dinars (\$3.68 billion) in 1993 while its imports totalled 1.438 billion (\$3.81 billion).

In 1992, total exports stood at 1.284 billion dinars (\$3.41 billion) and its imports at 1.558

## OAPEC hurt by Gulf war, world recession

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf war and world recession have hurt the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), sharply depressing business of its main ventures and prompting withdrawals from others.

In a report obtained here Tuesday, the 10-nation group said its Arab Shipping Company for Oil Transport (ASCOT) was forced to switch operations to the spot market because of low demand on regular routes.

"The sudden deterioration of the ship repairing market in the second half of 1992 depressed business at ASRY and consequently its profits in 1993. But it expects recession will not be long," the report said.

"World economic recession has adversely affected the oil and gas transport market and this affected ASCOT in 1992 and 1993. Demand for tankers sharply declined, pushing fees

to low levels and forcing ASCOT to operate most of its tankers in the spot market."

It said ASCOT, set up in Kuwait in 1972, have eight tankers. Expansion of the fleet still requires approval from the shareholding countries, it added.

Another major venture, the Bahrain-based Arab Shipping Building and Repair Yard (ASRY), is also suffering from recession following expansion projects.

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## Egypt expects low inflation

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation said Egyptian inflation would fall to between three and five per cent by the end of 1995. The minister, Yousef Boutros-Ghali, also told the government newspaper Al Ahram in an interview that as a consequence of the government's economic re-

forms 400,000 new jobs could be created in 1995. "Our deadline is the end of 1995," he said. "We confirm the inflation rate will stabilise and settle at a rate between three and five per cent, which is the international average." Inflation has been falling and it reached a three-year low of 7.4 per cent in the year to the end of January.

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billion (\$4.13 billion). Non-oil exports in 1993, including provisional fourth quarter figures, stood at 469.9 million dinars (\$1.25 billion), up from 306.6 million (\$812 million) in 1992.

Bahrain, which produces around 42,000 barrels of oil per day (bd) also imports about 200,000 bd of crude oil from Saudi Arabia for refining.

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## S. African peace summit bid collapses

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African peace summit called to halt spiralling violence collapsed Tuesday when the Zulu king said his people needed time to bury their dead after Monday's carnage in Johannesburg.

Police said at least 51 people were killed and 173 wounded in Johannesburg and its townships after a march by royalist Zulus in support of King Goodwill Zwelithini's demands for a sovereign state ended in a bloodbath.

King Goodwill said the summit, planned for Wednesday, should not be held until after easier in April to allow the Zulus to bury their dead.

"It is unlikely the meeting will take place," KwaZulu government spokesman T.C. Memela said from the home-town capital Ulundi.

President F.W. De Klerk called the summit with ANC chief Nelson Mandela, the king, and the king's uncle, Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to stem violence threatening the country's first all-race elections only four weeks away.

Police said the full scale of Monday's bloodshed, in which at least three policemen were killed, was only becoming apparent as hospitals sent in

casualty reports.

The king said it would be most inappropriate to enter talks after the mayhem in Johannesburg "even before the Zulu bereaved have buried their dead."

The summit would have been the first face-to-face meeting between the country's four key political leaders.

King Goodwill said in a letter dated March 28 that a summit the week after Easter was possible "provided the violence has abated and the smoldering anger in our communities has sufficiently subsided and the dead have been laid to rest."

Political analyst Richard Cornwell said even if the summit went ahead, there was no guarantee violence would diminish and create conditions for free and fair elections in areas where bloodshed was endemic.

More than 150 people have died in the Zulu heartland of Natal and the adjoining KwaZulu homeland in the past 10 days in political battle between supporters of Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and Inkatha.

Mr. Buthelezi accused the ANC Tuesday of planning the massacre of Zulu marchers outside its Johannesburg head-

quarters Monday.

"The killing was pre-planned. The ANC had located sharpshooters on top of its headquarters and other buildings in the immediate proximity. They were carefully placed so that they could do the hideous deeds that took place," he said in a statement sent to Reuters.

"No reasonable person could possibly doubt what took place near the Shell House headquarters of the ANC... was a wilful slaughter of people who had every democratic right in the world to be where they were and doing what they were doing," said Mr. Buthelezi.

"I am outraged that people exercising the same democratic right that the ANC claims for themselves — to air views and express themselves politically — should be shot at by sharp-shooting snipers," the Inkatha leader said.

Meanwhile, gunmen in a minibus fired at the ANC headquarters in Johannesburg Tuesday, close to where the eight Zulu marchers were killed.

"Shots were fired at the ANC building but there was no damage and no casualties," a policeman at the scene said. Police said several shots

were fired.

They were searching for the minibus but it was not known how many people were in the vehicle, which sped past the corner where eight Zulu marchers were killed.

The window of a parked car was shattered. Police briefly cordoned off the area and a spokesman, Major Eugene Opperman, said police were investigating.

Earlier Tuesday, police reversed a decision to launch a weapons raid on Shell house despite having search warrants.

In a prepared statement, police called the incident a "non-search."

Warrant Officer Andy Pieke, a Witwatersrand police spokesman, said the police had obtained a number of search warrants "to gather evidence necessary to investigate the happenings in Johannesburg yesterday."

The South African Police, however, did not search ANC Shell House in Plein Street, for which a search warrant had been issued," Mr. Pieke's statement said.

It gave no further details, but independent Radio 702, quoting a "highly-placed source," reported that Mr. Mandela had intervened.

Electoral Commission Chairman Ivan Yemets said the second round of voting for remaining seats in the 450-member legislature could take place as soon as Sunday.



Armed policemen take positions with automatic rifles while Zulus take cover during a gunbattle at the ANC Headquarters in Johannesburg (AP photo)

## Parliamentary crisis looms in Ukraine as only 49 candidates win seats

KIEV (AP) — Only 49 candidates won seats in the first round of voting for Ukraine's first post-Soviet parliament, forcing more than 400 races into run-offs and raising fears of further instability in the troubled nation.

It gave no further details, but independent Radio 702, quoting a "highly-placed source," reported that Mr. Mandela had intervened.

Under Ukrainian electoral law, the second round of voting to the remaining 401 seats must be held by April 10, with the two top vote-getters from the first ballot facing off.

Mr. Yemets told a news conference that dozens of candidates came close to reaching the 50-per cent cutoff mark for victory, but it was unclear if a second round would be sufficient to decide all remaining races.

He said that 226 seats must be filled to allow the new parliament to convene and pass laws, while 300 deputies were needed to form the quorum necessary to vote on constitutional amendments.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has warned that if the 300-deputy threshold is not reached after a second round of voting, the old Soviet-era legislature would continue the function of voting.

## Clinton climbs 10 points in latest poll

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's job approval rating climbed 10 percentage points after his prime-time news conference last week, the latest ABC News-Washington Post poll found.

Fifty-seven per cent of those polled on March 25-27 approve of Mr. Clinton's job performance, compared with 47 per cent in a poll dated March 22 and 52 per cent on March 8.

Forty-one per cent disapprove, down from 45 per cent on March 22, but up slightly from 40 per cent on March 8.

The poll also found a majority of the respondents — 56 per cent — believe the Whitewater affair is not an important issue. Forty per cent said it is important.

Mr. Clinton, on vacation in Coronado, Calif., gave a thumbs-up signal when asked about the poll, and said he was "in good shape."

"He was very encouraged when I showed him the poll numbers, both on the approval rating and on how he's handling Whitewater," said White House spokesman Jeff Eller.

The deal worked out in Greece was designed to meet British demands that blocking threshold remain at 23 votes even after enlargement of the EU to 16 members, with the entry of Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway at the start of next year.

Under the proposal the four new nations will have it written into their membership terms that 27 votes out of 90 will be the minimum required for a veto.

Earlier Tuesday, Employment Secretary David Hunt said the European Commission had given Britain assurance that it would not use the new system as a way of introducing social policy changes through the back door by disguising them as health and safety legislation.

The poll showed that 69 per cent believe the Whitewater affair is distracting the federal government from important work, and 71 per cent believe it has been over-reported by the news media.

Nonevertheless, 44 per cent said Mr. Clinton is "holding back something important" about Whitewater, and 46 per cent said he has not revealed enough about his personal finances.

The survey was conducted from March 25 to March 27 among a random sample of

1,029 adults. The results have a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

Meanwhile, The House Banking Committee chairman said Monday he's "not interested in protecting anyone" in the Whitewater affair, and defended his decision to cancel what would have been the first House hearing on the subject which has bedeviled the Clinton White House.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez followed a news conference at which Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd outlined the Greek formula.

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## Hand dryers blow food-poisoning bacteria — study

LONDON (R) — Ninety-five per cent of public washroom hand dryers tested emitted bacteria which could cause food poisoning or bronchopneumonia, a British study released Tuesday showed. The survey, carried out by the University of Westminster in London, said the number of disease-causing bacteria on the hands could be multiplied by more than 600 per cent when a hot air hand dryer was used. "The university's report suggests that where hot air dryers are used in sensitive locations such as hospitals, their use should be seriously reconsidered on health grounds," a statement released with the study said. "It shows that 80 per cent of the hot air dryers tested in hospitals blew out bacteria which could cause broncho-pneumonia," it added. The study included air dryers in 35 locations in public washrooms in hospitals, fast food restaurants, shops and railway stations. Sixty-three per cent of the devices in all locations tested blow out gut bacteria which indicated faecal contamination. The study said pull-down linen towels reduced the total number of bacteria on people's hands by more than 40 per cent and paper hand towels by nearly 60 per cent.

## Norwegians 'in secret talks' over Munch picture

OSLO (R) — A group of Norwegian investors are secretly discussing paying a ransom for one of the world's most famous paintings stolen in Oslo last month, a Norwegian newspaper said Tuesday. The independent Dagbladet said the anonymous group had been negotiating with thieves' representatives over a five million kroner (\$680,000) ransom for the 1983 Norwegian masterpiece, "The Scream" by Edvard Munch, which would then be given back to the National Gallery. "The Scream," showing a wail-like figure wide-mouthed in terror beneath a blood-red sky, was stolen from the gallery by two thieves on Feb. 12. Jens Kristian Thune, chairman of the gallery's board, told Dagbladet he had been informed by the investors of the ransom talks and that he had told Norway's Culture Ministry of their plan.

"It's natural that they would be upset" with a decision by the Resolution Trust Corp. to retain former U.S. attorney Jay B. Stephens to investigate the failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, Mr. Leach said of senior White House aides Harold Ickes and George Stephanopoulos.

In a separate development, a Newsweek magazine article quoting a tax expert as saying Hillary Rodham Clinton didn't use her own money in a successful investment scheme was based on a "misunderstanding" with the source and the magazine may apologize to the White House, an editor said Monday.

Newsweek, in its April 4 edition appearing on newsstands Monday, quoted Professor Marvin A. Chirelstein of Columbia University Law School as saying Mrs. Clinton did not invest any money of her own to realize roughly \$100,000 in cattle futures trading profits in 1978 and 1979.

## Woman receives compensation from Bonn for cow loss

GOMEL, Belarus (AP) — German authorities, acting on a receipt issued by the Nazi occupation administration more than 50 years ago, have compensated for a Belarusian woman's loss of a cow, a news agency said. Anna Voropayeva, whose cow was requisitioned by German troops in 1942, presented the document to a representative of a German relief agency this year, ITAR-TASS reported.

## Cheats undermine top China resort

BEIJING (R) — Cheats in one of China's top resorts are fleecing tourists with swindles like the "free" 500 karaoke session, a newspaper reported Monday. The China consumer ows said the scenic southern mountain town of Guilin had become such a bane for tricksters that its future as a holiday spot was in danger.

"When will Guilin stop ripping off its customers?" the newspaper asked. The town in Guangxi province is the centre of a region long popular with local and foreign travellers for its spectacular mountains and winding rivers. But now taxi drivers and tour guides, grown tired of depending on the goodwill of tourists, have decided to rob them instead.

"These Guilin people are really black-hearted," one Chinese tourist from Anshan was quoted as saying. The China Consumer News said one popular scam was the "free" karaoke session, where tourists are ultimately presented with a bill for as much as 4,918 yuan (\$365). A tourist from southern Guangdong province who refused to pay 200 yuan (\$23) for a bowl of noodles was robbed of 500 yuan (\$57) after she was body-searched, it said.

Although authorities have tried to reassert control by imposing fines or suspending business licences, scams are increasing and threatening the city's tourism income, the paper said.

## Yeltsin's wife says Russians better off than ever

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin's wife Naina, in a rare newspaper interview, defended her husband's reforms Tuesday, saying Russians were better off than ever.

"You can buy whatever you want," she told the daily Komosolskaya Pravda. "Look back 10 years: Now there is nobody looking over your shoulder and you have a chance to earn as much money as you are able."

Politicians all pay lip service to "economic reform". But much of the parliament say Mr. Yeltsin's rush towards capitalism is destroying production and beggarizing the nation.

Naina, who has no record of involvement in politics herself, complained newspapers gave the impression her husband was not interested in improving the people's lot.

Interviewed last week in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Naina was asked whether she supported her husband's policies.

"Tell me, are you personally any worse off?" she retorted. "I suppose not," came the response.

"You know, we have our acquaintances," continued Russia's first lady. "Believe me these are not high-ranking officials; they are ordinary people and none of them are complaining."

"I was in... Yekaterinburg (the Yeltsins' home town) and I cannot say they are any worse

off there. For some, things are difficult, for some, things are hard. But no worse."

"In my view people have won the most important thing, their freedom. Now there is nobody looking over your shoulder and you have a chance to earn as much money as you are able."

Naina dismissed the view 80 per cent of Russians were on the threshold of poverty, saying it was impossible all the commercial activity she saw was for a mere 20 per cent of the population.

"Unfortunately nobody bothers to mention that the situation in Russia is better than in the other republics of the former (Soviet) Union," she said. "That doesn't fit into the opposition scenario."

Naina also denounced speculation about Mr. Yeltsin's health as "dirty politics" aimed at the 1996 presidential election.

"There isn't a single country in the world where they speculate about the president's health as they do here," she said.

"He's healthy, he's healthy. All this talk about his health is

"What illnesses won't they invent for the president?" she said. "He gets flu — they say he's seriously ill. He works at home — they say he's ill again."

"He arrived in Sochi, a change of surroundings is already a rest. He played tennis, bathed in the sea."

"Boris Nikolayevich does not treat his health lightly and if he was seriously ill he would have retired long ago."

Meanwhile, the prosecutor general's office launched a criminal probe Monday into recent media reports about plots to overthrow President Yeltsin.

In a statement carried by the Interfax News Agency, it said an inquiry has shown that newspaper stories about a group of high-ranking officials who allegedly intended to overthrow Mr. Yeltsin were false.

Mr. Yeltsin's health has been the subject of intense speculation, especially abroad and in financial markets, since a bout of nervous exhaustion confined him to hospital in 1987.

Last week a U.S. television network, quoting unnamed sources, reported that he had

# Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1994 9

## Pacers rout Clippers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Rik Smith scored 27 points and Reggie Miller added 22 on 5-of-6 3-point shootings, leading the Indiana Pacers out of an offensive slump with a 126-93 victory Monday night over the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Pacers, who broke a two-game losing streak, were averaging 87.9 points in their last 12 games.

They broke loose for 66 points in the first half against the Clippers, five more than they scored in a 93-61 loss at Cleveland last Tuesday.

In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 23 points and Seattle forced 23 turnover in Seattle beating Denver.

The Sonics shot less than 40 per cent for the third time this season but their defense carried them to their fifth straight victory and 14th in their last 17 games.

Lathono Ellis led the Nuggets with 20 points on 10-of-16 shooting. Dikembe Mutombo had 21 rebounds and nine points for the Nuggets, who had their four-game winning streak snapped. Seattle converted 34-of-43 free throws to the Nuggets' 20-of-31.

### NBA STANDINGS EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	49	19	.721	—
Orlando	40	28	.588	9
Miami	37	31	.544	12
New Jersey	36	31	.537	12½
Boston	24	42	.364	24
Philadelphia	21	48	.304	28½
Washington	19	49	.279	30

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	48	20	.706	—
Chicago	45	24	.652	3½
Cleveland	39	30	.565	9½
Indiana	36	32	.529	12
Charlotte	31	36	.463	16½
Detroit	19	49	.279	29
Milwaukee	18	50	.265	30

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	48	19	.716	—
San Antonio	49	20	.710	—
Utah	44	26	.629	5½
Denver	35	33	.515	13½
Minnesota	19	49	.279	29½
Dallas	8	60	.118	40½

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	51	17	.750	—
Phoenix	45	23	.662	6
Portland	41	28	.594	10½
Golden State	39	28	.582	11½
L.A. Lakers	29	38	.433	21½
L.A. Clippers	25	43	.368	26
Sacramento	23	45	.338	28

\* Clinched playoff berth.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAHNAN HIRSCH  
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#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦A87 ♦Q983 ♦Q86 ♦A76  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
Pass 1 ♠ Pass Pass  
1 ♠ 2 ♣ ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—You have a pretty good hand, but don't hang partner for not selling out to one diamond. North is a passed hand and couldn't reopen with a double. Therefore be content with a raise to two spades. Since North has already bid your cards, any further action will have to come from partner.

Q.2.—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦A984 ♦7 ♦AK85 ♦A4  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?  
A.—There's no question that you're going to play in game, but since your hand is unbalanced, a suit contract might be safer than three no trump. To check on whether partner has a four-card heart suit, use the Stayman-Convention. Bid three clubs.

Q.3.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦KQJ6 ♦98 ♦K864 ♦943  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
2 ♣ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—Normally, with 9 points and a balanced hand you would invite game by bidding two no trump. Here, however, your high cards are concentrated in your long suits, avoiding two possible sources of error: jump to three no trump.

## 14 Arab teams to take part in ART basketball tourney

### Olujuwon suspended

Meanwhile, in New York, Hakeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets, the league's third-leading scorer and rebounder, was suspended by the NBA for one game Monday for hitting referee Bill Spooner in the stomach with an open hand during Sunday night's game in Phoenix. The incident occurred with 7:26 left in the 113-98 loss. The 7-foot (2.14-metre) Nigerian centre was gesturing at Spooner to protest what he thought should have been a foul on the Suns' A.C. Green when he struck the official.

Olajuwon was ejected two seconds after Dan Majerle scored on an offensive rebound to put Phoenix ahead 90-78. Olajuwon had 21 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks.

"Spooner felt a shot in the solar plexus," said NBA supervisor of officials Darelle Garrettson, who was at the game but did not work it. "That can happen with a guy running by, it can happen a thousand ways. I think he knew he had done something wrong by the way he left the floor."

Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Fourteen teams will take part in the Arab Radio and Television (ART) Basketball Championship which will take place in Amman on May 5th through May 15th, according to President of the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Awwad Had-

dad. According to Mr. Haddad, the organising committee of ART, which is organised by the Amman-based Dallah Corporation for Communications, aims to promote relations between Arab states and to boost the performance of basketball players in the Arab World as a whole.

He said 14 teams from seven countries have thus far agreed to participate in ART championship.

Two teams will be from Saudi Arabia, one from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), two from Qatar, one from Bahrain, two from Lebanon, two from Egypt, two from Syria in addition to Jordan's top two teams Al Ahli and Al Orthodox, said Mr. Haddad, who is also member of the tournament's organising committee.

He said the championship,

which is organised by the Ministry of Youth Abdallah Oweidat, will include as members in addition to Mr. Haddad, Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth Majid Quteshat, Secretary of the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) Muwaffaq Al Fawaz, representatives of Al Ahli and Al Orthodox clubs, the director of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, the director of Al Hussein Youth City and representatives of Jordanian newspapers and Dallah corporation.

they would need to be rescheduled to avoid clashing with the Olympics.

The two-yearly European championships, with a tradition dating back to 1926, and the Pan-Pacific Games at present fill the years in between the Olympics and the worlds, so something would have to give.

"Always in life we have priorities," Cornel Marinescu, director of the FINA office, said at the Paris meeting which concluded the World Cup series.

"To increase the image of swimming we need a high standard of events. In short-course we have made a big step forward."

A federation commission is working on the calendar and looking into the possibility of changing the long-course world championship schedule.

FINA's introduction of short-course world championships, first staged in Palma de Mallorca last December and next set for Rio de Janeiro in 1993, has already cut across the European sprint championships to the annoyance of European administrators.

The long-course world championships, first held in Belgrade in 1973, are currently staged midway between Olympics with the next edition set for Rome this September. If they were held every two years

But, with records tumbling and meets successful, the international body has had a change of heart.

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## Becker crashes out of Osaka Open

OSAKA, Japan (R) — Third seed Boris Becker crashed out of the \$650,000 Osaka Salen Open tennis tournament Tuesday at the first hurdle, going down to American Rothie Weiss in three sets.

Weiss, ranked 113 in the world, pulled back from 0-3 in the third to beat the German 4-6 6-3 6-4.

There were comfortable victories in first round matches for four other Americans — top-seeded Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Andre Agassi and Ivan Lendl.

Sampras defeated Stephane Simian of France 7-5 6-3, Chang beat Joern Renzenbrink of Germany 6-1 6-0, Agassi overcame compatriot Dong Flach 6-1 7-5, while Lendl disposed of Thomas Shimada of Japan 6-2 6-1.



Boris Becker

tennis after wins against Stefan Edberg, when the Swede was world number two, and against Lendl, when he was ranked sixth.

He said Becker, who has now slipped to 14 in the world rankings, failed to produce his fearsome serve of old.

"It was difficult to play in the cold, but I tried my best," he said. "He came up with some good shots and played a good match."

Weiss, 16, beat Becker 6-3 6-4 in the third set.

Becker, troubled by a slow court and cold, windy conditions, squandered his lead in the final set to give 27-year-old Weiss one of the biggest wins of his career.

"I was surprised to come back... It's a great win for me," said the American.

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Becker

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath return home

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath Tuesday returned home at the end of a private visit to Austria. Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath were received upon arrival by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef and senior civil and military officials.

## Malhas leaves for ministers meeting in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Tuesday left for Cairo to take part in the two-day session of the Council of Arab Health Ministers, which starts here today. The Arab health ministers will discuss several issues, including health conditions of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, coordination with the World Health Organisation (WHO), and reports about activities of Arab Council for Medical Specialisations and the Arab Council for Health Documentation and Publications.

## Child killed in shooting accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — An 18-month-old Badia girl who has shot accidentally by her 5-year-old brother died Monday, according to police reports. The victim's father told police that he took his family to graze their sheep, and when they returned home, his son took the rifle to place it in a safe place, and the rifle went off accidentally hitting the baby in the chest. Hospital sources said the girl, identified only as N.H.S., was declared dead on arrival. Police said they are investigating the incident. In another accident, in Mafrat, a 43-year-old man Monday was killed when the steam-roller he was driving turned over. According to traffic officials, the victim, Farouq Sajameh, was driving too fast on a surface that could not accommodate the vehicle.

## France urges speed-up in Mideast talks

PARIS (AFP) — France Tuesday deplored violence which left several Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and called on parties to the Mideast peace talks to speed up negotiations. Foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said Monday's violence in Gaza "once again shows the urgency of the need to bring into force the Sept. 13, 1993, accord of principle on allowing the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the redeployment of forces." France, the spokesman added, "calls on all parties to exercise the necessary restraint and to accelerate negotiations to achieve rapid implementation of the interim autonomy" accord.

## Armenia awaits crash communique from Iran

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia withheld any substantive comment on Tuesday about the downing of an Iranian plane which Tehran says was brought down by Armenian forces over disputed Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian presidential spokesman Levon Zurayyan, speaking by telephone from Yerevan, said: "We are aware of the statements circulated by various news agencies about the plane which is alleged to have been shot down. But the Armenian government has not had any official notification and we cannot react until we have received the communique from the Iranian side." Iran's official news agency IRNA, quoting a Foreign Ministry statement, said the military Hercules C-130 cargo plane was shot down by a missile fired by Armenians in Karabakh shortly after the plane had contacted the Yerevan control tower. All 32 people on board, including a number of relatives of Iranian diplomats based in Moscow, were killed in the March 17 incident. The mainly-Armenian populated Karabakh, which is administratively inside Azerbaijan, has been at the centre of an undeclared war between the two former Soviet republics for the past six years. Thousands have died in fighting. The Armenian government denies any direct involvement in the fighting, but it provides diplomatic and logistical support for the Karabakh Armenians.

## Kuwait Islamists angry at traffic curbs

KUWAIT (R) — About 50 Islamists gathered at Kuwait University on Monday to protest against the introduction of tougher penalties for women who endanger traffic by driving with veiled faces, newspapers reported. "Such a decision does not serve the political stability that the ministry of interior authorities should maintain," Al Watan newspaper quoted Kuwait University Islamic studies teacher Abdul Razzaq Al Shafei as saying. "We are against the decision... for the unjust imposing of it as if it was a type of challenge to the feelings of the shahids (by Islamic rules) and honestly I regard it was a type of provocation," he said. Some students said they would go on strike for two days this week if the rules were not withdrawn. The students held their meeting after police visited the campus for two days running and handed out traffic tickets to veiled women drivers. Traffic authorities this week decided to withdraw for up to four months the driving licences of anyone caught driving with their faces covered with veils or male Arab head-dresses. Car licence plates could also be withdrawn for up to four months and repeat offenders may be jailed for up to a month. Such drivers were previously subject to court fines.

## Motorbike gang kills watchman in UAE

DUBAI (R) — Police have arrested 10 glue-sniffing motorbike riders accused of clubbing a night watchman to death in the first recorded slaying by an organised gang in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "It is the first time that a gang of youths actually agreed on and executed a murder with so much indifference," said Captain Abdullah Mubarak, head of internal security affairs in the UAE state of Sharjah where the killing took place. Members of the gang, some as young as 15 and one aged 20, were charged with killing Pakistani watchman Bazit Zorati, 35, a municipal car pound on March 25 and stealing five motorbikes. The gang members — six UAE nationals, three Iranians and one Yemeni — had wanted to reclaim motorbikes confiscated by police from under-age or unlicensed riders. Police said the killing was cold-blooded. The guard had locked himself inside a room after he was attacked on the head with an iron bar. But the youths smashed their way into the room and hit him on the head again, Capt. Muharak said. He died on his way to hospital. Capt. Muharak said the crime "signalled the beginning of organised crime among youth." He said the youths were regular glue-sniffers and several had previous convictions. Two aged 15 and 20 have been referred to a criminal court. The rest aged 15 and 16 will be tried in a juvenile court.

## Iranian foreign minister on African tour

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in the West African nation of Guinea Tuesday, the first stop on a six-nation tour of Africa aimed at boosting ties. Tehran Radio quoted Mr. Velayati as saying in the Guinean capital, Conakry, that the aim of his visit was to "expand relations in various fields." Mr. Velayati made a brief stopover in the N'djamena, capital of Chad, en route to Guinea, the radio said. It said he met at the airport with his counterpart from Chad. The agency said that Mr. Velayati would also visit Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya and the Central African Republic. The Islamic Republic News Agency said the tour would last three weeks.

"...and were aimed at boosting political, economic and cultural ties as well as regional and international cooperation. Noting that the six nations were rich in natural resources, IRNA said "Iran can have favourable cooperation with the said countries and can invest in their mineral and agricultural sectors in favour of common interests." It said the major drawback to promoting trade was the lack of direct air or sea links with Africa.

## Croats, Serbs hold truce talks

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Croatian officials and rebel Serbs pored over maps on Monday during ceasefire talks called to try to halt fighting in Croatia's breakaway Krajina region.

International mediators said before the talks began that the two sides were close to signing a truce, but after several hours it appeared the process would move more slowly than anticipated.

U.S. Ambassador Peter Galbraith said the discussions on demarcation lines were "complicated" and probably would continue into the evening.

Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin urged caution to avoid losing momentum. "What we want is not progress, we want agreement," he said.

International mediators hope the ceasefire accord would be a first step to resolving the dispute over the Serb-held breakaway Krajina region in Croatia.

"The border is long, the terrain is difficult, the maps are many and the history is very unpleasant," Mr. Churkin told reporters earlier outside the Russian embassy, where the two sides met for the second time in a week.

U.S. special envoy Charles Redman joined Mr. Churkin at the talks to press rebel Serbs and Croats into agreeing a lasting truce that would end a three-year-old conflict.

Diplomats say resolving the Krajina conflict is a key element to any overall settlement in the former Yugoslavia.

Asked if he expected a ceasefire agreement, Slobodan Jarcevic, who led the Serb delegation, said: "Yes, probably."

The Serbs and Croats are discussing a permanent truce with each side withdrawing infantry by one kilometre and heavy weaponry by 20 kilometres, diplomats involved in the talks say.

A spokesman for the mediators, John Mills, said an hour into the talks that the

**Iran wants to send 120,000 pilgrims to Mecca**

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran hinted Tuesday it would try to send 120,000 pilgrims to Mecca this year, more than double the number Saudi Arabia says it will allow.

Tehran Radio quoted the head of the pilgrimage organisation, identified only as Rezaie, as saying, "this year Iran has complete readiness to send more than 120,000 pilgrims."

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying that the number was based on an agreement signed between Iran and Saudi Arabia three years ago.

The pilgrimage issue and Iran's displeasure at Saudi Arabia's huge OPEC quota, which Tehran blamed for the plunging world oil prices, are at the centre of a simmering feud between the two countries.

In recent weeks Iranian officials have lashed out at the Saudis, accusing them of "creating obstacles" for Iranian pilgrims.

The feud appears to be coming to a head following three years of cool but correct relations between the two titans of the Muslim world, who are also the top producers inside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The Iranians, whose economy has been reeling under the oil price collapse, are especially indignant about Saudi Arabia's refusal to trim its oil production ceiling after Saudi Arabia opposed the move.

Though Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party held the overall lead across old Istanbul as counting continued after Sunday's municipal elections, the Welfare Party (PP) was confirmed as the winner in the capital Ankara and there was little doubt it would also take this ancient capital on the Bosphorus Strait straddling Europe and Asia, now Turkey's biggest city.

The latest results, announced by the Turkish news agency Anatolia, said PP candidate Melih Gokcek had won the mayor's post in Ankara and his counterpart in Istanbul, Tayyip Erdogan, was ahead with 25.48 per cent.

The charismatic and fiercely anti-Western PP leader, Nec-

mood was "optimistic" as the two sides studied maps with U.N. military officers.

In the afternoon, the leader of the Croat delegation, Hrvoje Sarinic, head of Croatia's national security office, left briefly, presumably to consult with Croatian government officials.

Mediators insist the proposed accord focuses only on a separation of forces and does not address political or economic issues.

Serbs rose up against Croatia's declaration of independence from Serbia-dominated Yugoslavia in 1991 and captured a third of Croatian territory in bitter fighting.

Croats and Rebel Serbs signed a ceasefire in 1992 and the United Nations deployed 14,000 troops to patrol volatile areas. But the truce has been violated many times.

If the truce pact is signed, the two sides would begin negotiating the reopening of roads and telephone lines as well as questions over Krajina's political status, mediators said.

Despite a U.N.-brokered cease-fire signed in January 1992, there has never been a formal end to the six-month war in 1991 between Croatia and its Serb minority. The war left at least 10,000 people dead and Serb rebels in control of one third of Croatia. Without a final end to hostilities, sporadic skirmishes between the two have persisted.

Russia and the United States, working together on solving the war in neighbouring Bosnia, have been pressuring the two warring parties in Croatia to reach a final truce. Mediators know that a lasting peace in Bosnia cannot be achieved as long as Croat-Serb tensions smoulder just across the border.

Attending Tuesday's talks along with Mr. Churkin were Mr. Galbraith, as well as U.N. and European Union representatives.

According to the plan, water would be drawn from the

**Officer dismissed Goldstein call minutes before massacre**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A duty officer said on Tuesday that he did not think a call he received from the killer's wife minutes before the Hebron massacre was significant, although she may have hinted at her husband's intentions.

Shlomo Edelstein's testimony came as the commission of inquiry into the Feb. 25 mosque massacre began its fourth week of hearings.

Miriam Goldstein called Edelstein, on duty as security officer for the Kiryat Arba settlement, and asked him to track down her husband just 10 minutes before he entered in the Ibrahimi Mosque and shot dead dozens of Palestinian worshippers.

Goldstein, a physician, had called Edelstein at 5 a.m., asking him to send a jeep over to the medical centre where he worked. Edelstein said he tried Goldstein on a special line at the medical centre, while keeping Mrs. Goldstein off the phone.

When no one answered, Edelstein said he called the jeep driver, Moti Unger, who told him he had just dropped Goldstein off at the mosque, a site holy to both Muslims and Jews.

"I told (Mrs. Goldstein), "Moti said he dropped him off for prayers at the cave," Edelstein told the commission, using the Hebrew term "cave" for the site. "So she said to me,

"he didn't go to pray."

Edelstein said the remark prompted him to ask Mrs. Goldstein if anything was wrong, and that she said nothing was wrong. She then asked him to beep Goldstein on his emergency medical beeper, and he did so. He did not think the call significant.

That version of events contradicted an earlier report in an Israeli newspaper, where Edelstein was quoted as saying Mrs. Goldstein sounded highly emotional.

She had apparently suspected her husband's intentions when she woke up after he had left the house, and had found he had left his prayer shawl behind. Goldstein had returned home the night before in a fury, after Muslims had shouted "slaughter the Jews" during services for the Jewish Purim holiday.

Edelstein said Shishi had misquoted him, but judge Abdul Rahman Zoabi revealed that the panel had a copy of the recording of Shishi's phone interview with Edelstein.

"What would you say if I asked to listen to the recording?" Mr. Zoabi asked.

Edelstein shifted in his witness chair and said, "I don't understand the question."

Miriam Goldstein may still

(Continued on page 5)

## Panic in Istanbul night-life district after Islamic win

ISTANBUL (AP) — Panic took hold of Istanbul's night-life district Tuesday as the Islamic Welfare Party — which has made no secret of its desire to crack down on "excess" — was set to win the city's municipal vote.

Though Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party held the overall lead across old Istanbul as counting continued after Sunday's municipal elections, the Welfare Party (PP) was confirmed as the winner in the capital Ankara and there was little doubt it would also take this ancient capital on the Bosphorus Strait straddling Europe and Asia, now Turkey's biggest city.

The latest results, announced by the Turkish news agency Anatolia, said PP candidate Melih Gokcek had won the mayor's post in Ankara and his counterpart in Istanbul, Tayyip Erdogan, was ahead with 25.48 per cent.

The charismatic and fiercely anti-Western PP leader, Nec-

metin Erbakan, had forecast his party would take Istanbul, proudly speaking of a "second capture of Constantinople," the city's name when it was the last bastion of the eastern Roman empire before it was taken by the Turks in 1453.

Businessmen in the Beyoglu district in the heart of old Istanbul were bracing for the final results, voicing open concern about what might happen next as a few hundred PP supporters were already celebrating victory at the district's PP headquarters.

Umit Firat, the owner of one bar on Istiklal Street, the district's main drag, told AFP he and his local colleagues in the restaurant and night club business felt they were facing an "Islamic threat" and were "worried about their fate."

He said they feared the PP victory might encourage what he called "Islamic fanatics" to launch a campaign against what they deemed an immoral group of people selling alcohol.

He said they feared the PP

PP said it wanted strict control over the local businesses and locations where alcohol was sold.

Some people in the night-life business took this as forecasting a possible intimidation drive or even a wave of expulsions from the district.

He also declared a "war" on bars and clubs where prostitution was tolerated or any drug trafficking.

Mr. Erdogan, the PP candidate set to become Istanbul's next mayor, has also warned he will shut down the city's brothels in Zurastra Street, run by a well-known Armenian "madame," Maud Mamikian.

The PP, which won the

Beyoglu district, drew broad support from the local residents. Though Christian minorities peopled the district for centuries, they have gradually been replaced in the last quarter-century by residents from Anatolia — a less educated people from the countryside living here in extremely poor conditions who observers said were easily swayed by PP campaign promises.

Nusret Bayraktar, the PP mayor-elect for Beyoglu, said he would prohibit public new year's celebrations to the quarter, seeing this as a "Christian" tradition.

He also declared a "war" on bars and clubs where prostitution was tolerated or any drug trafficking.

Mr. Erdogan, the PP candidate set to become Istanbul's next mayor, has also warned he will shut down the city's brothels in Zurastra Street, run by a well-known Armenian "madame," Maud Mamikian.

He threatened to do so if he

had uncovered any attempt to bring them from America. He said he wanted to make sure they did not return to America.

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